

STORIES OF WISDOM

Forest ascetics, simple village lads, experienced travellers, and the famous Aushadha Kumar shared a precious trait with the mighty king of Kosala – they were exceptionally wise. These tales make it quite clear that common sense is more precious than all the wealth of the world. So, choose your companions for their sagacity and make yourself rich beyond measure.

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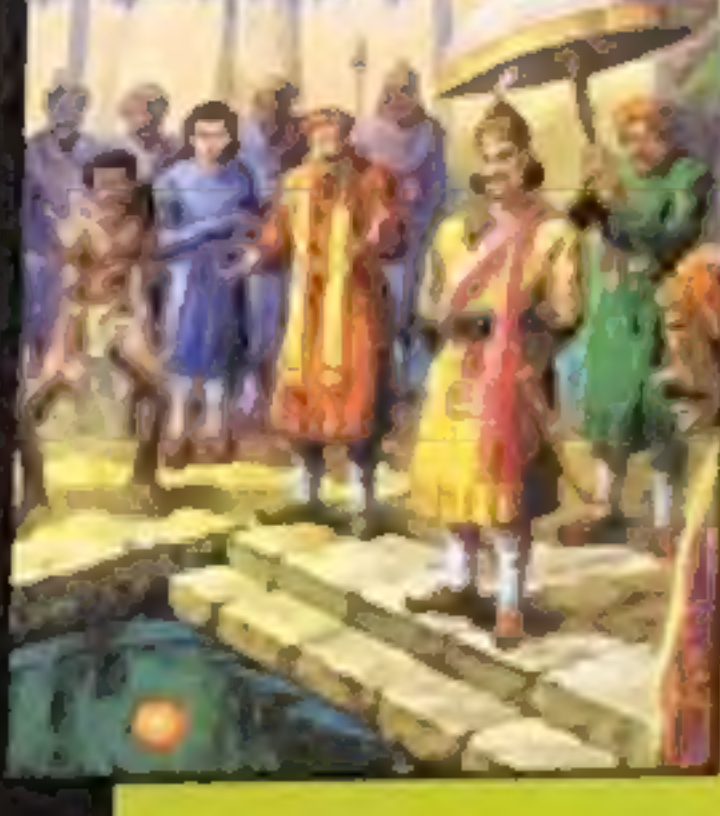
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STORIES OF WISDOM

RIGHT THINKING FROM THE JATAKA TALES

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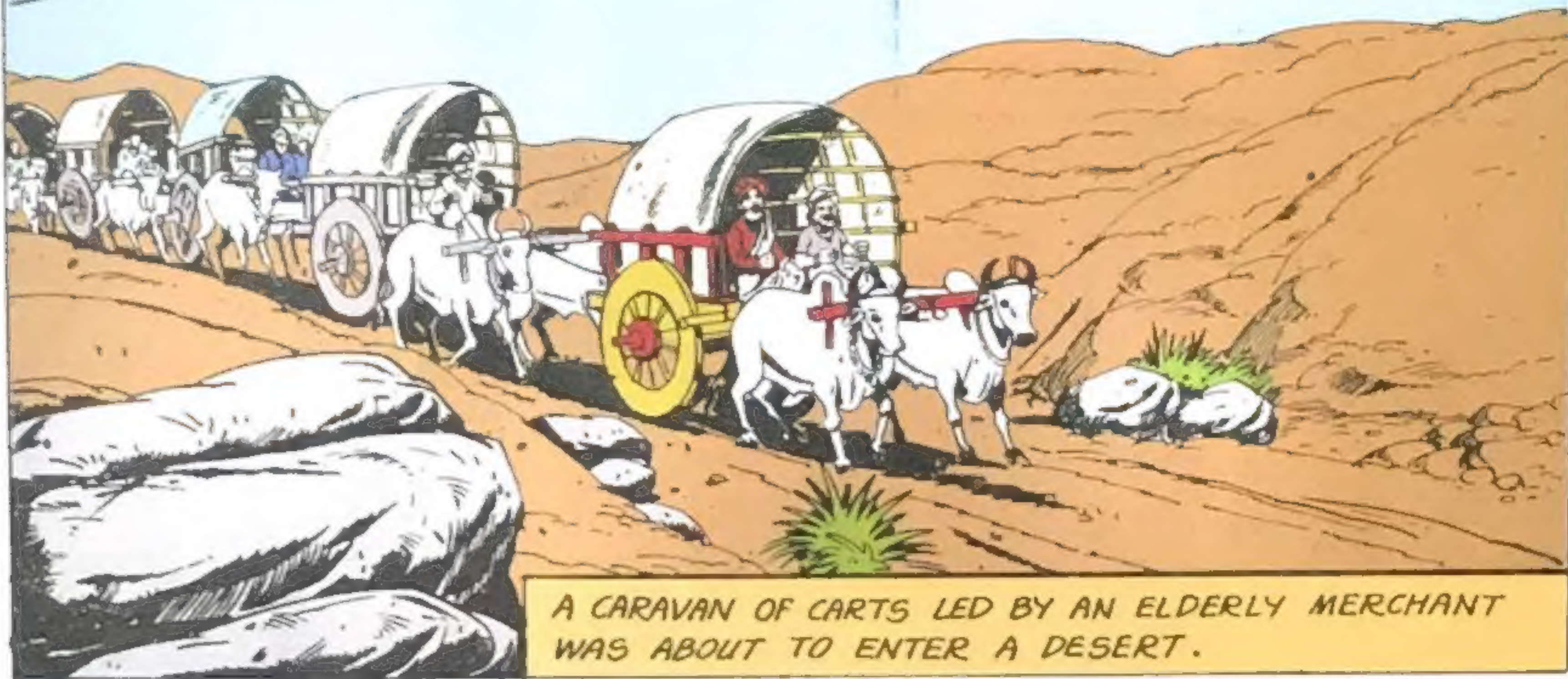


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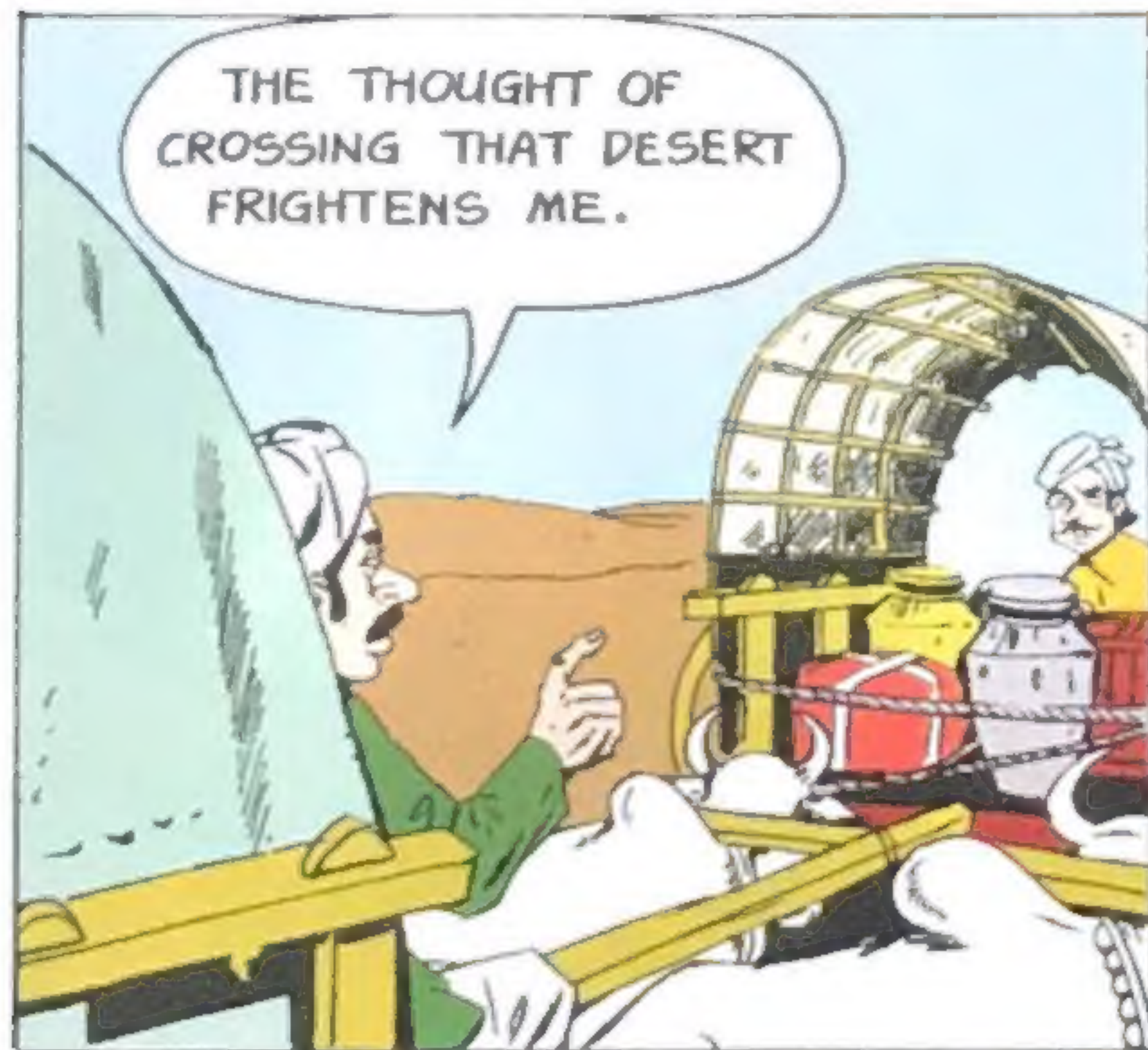


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THE WISE LEADER



A CARAVAN OF CARTS LED BY AN ELDERLY MERCHANT WAS ABOUT TO ENTER A DESERT.

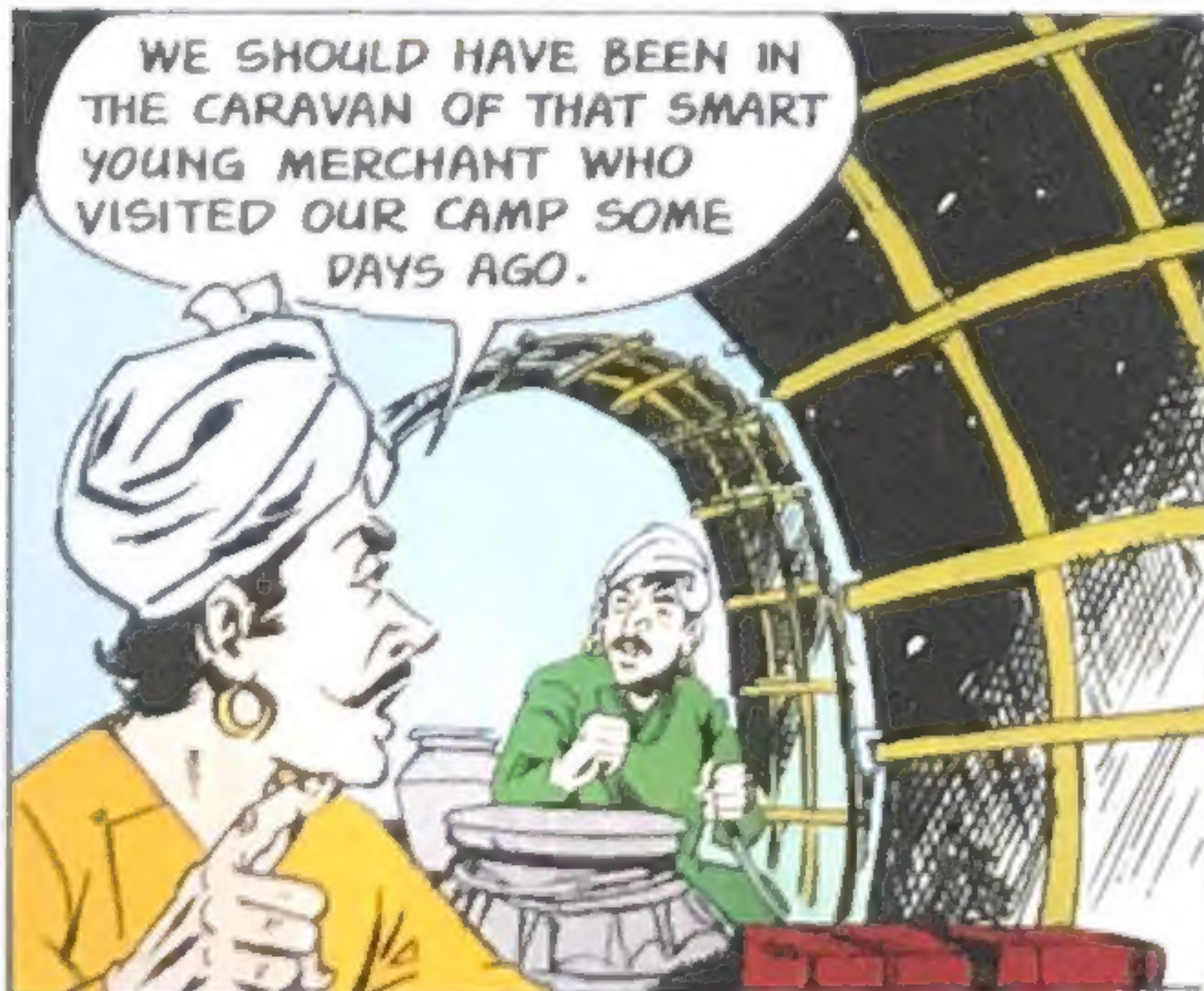


THE THOUGHT OF CROSSING THAT DESERT FRIGHTENS ME.

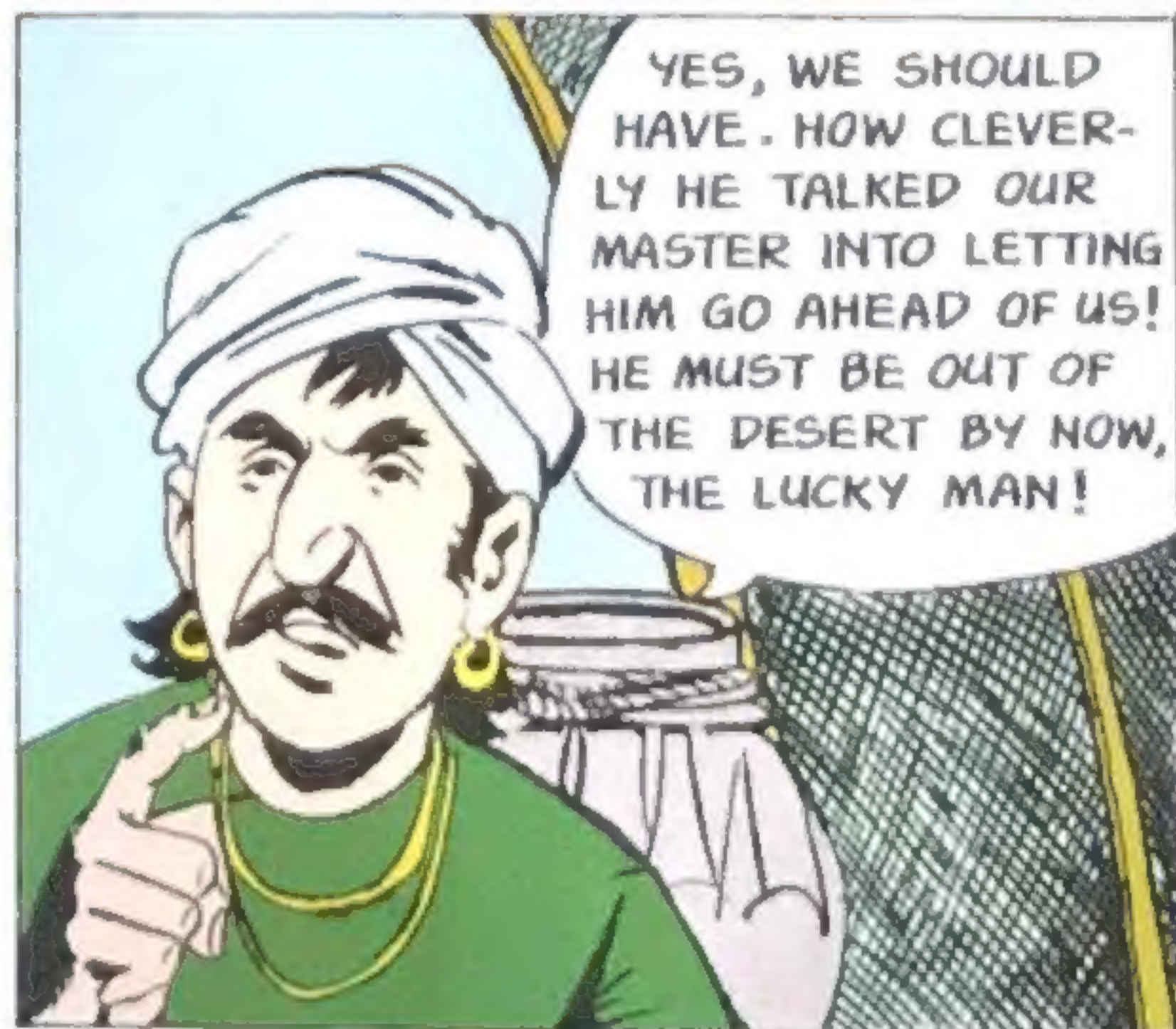


I'D BE HAPPIER IF WE HAD A BOLDER MAN TO LEAD US. OUR OLD MASTER IS MUCH TOO CAUTIOUS FOR MY LIKING.

I AGREE WITH YOU.

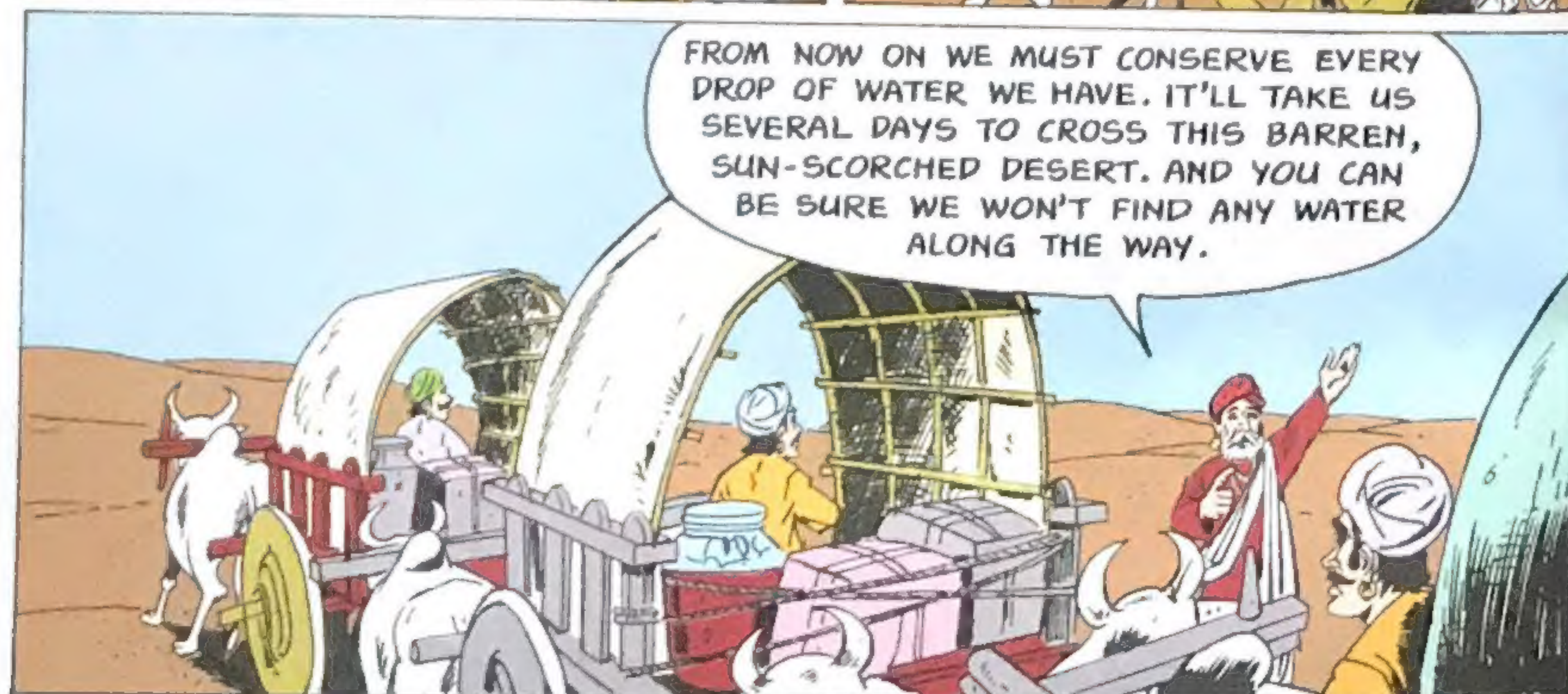
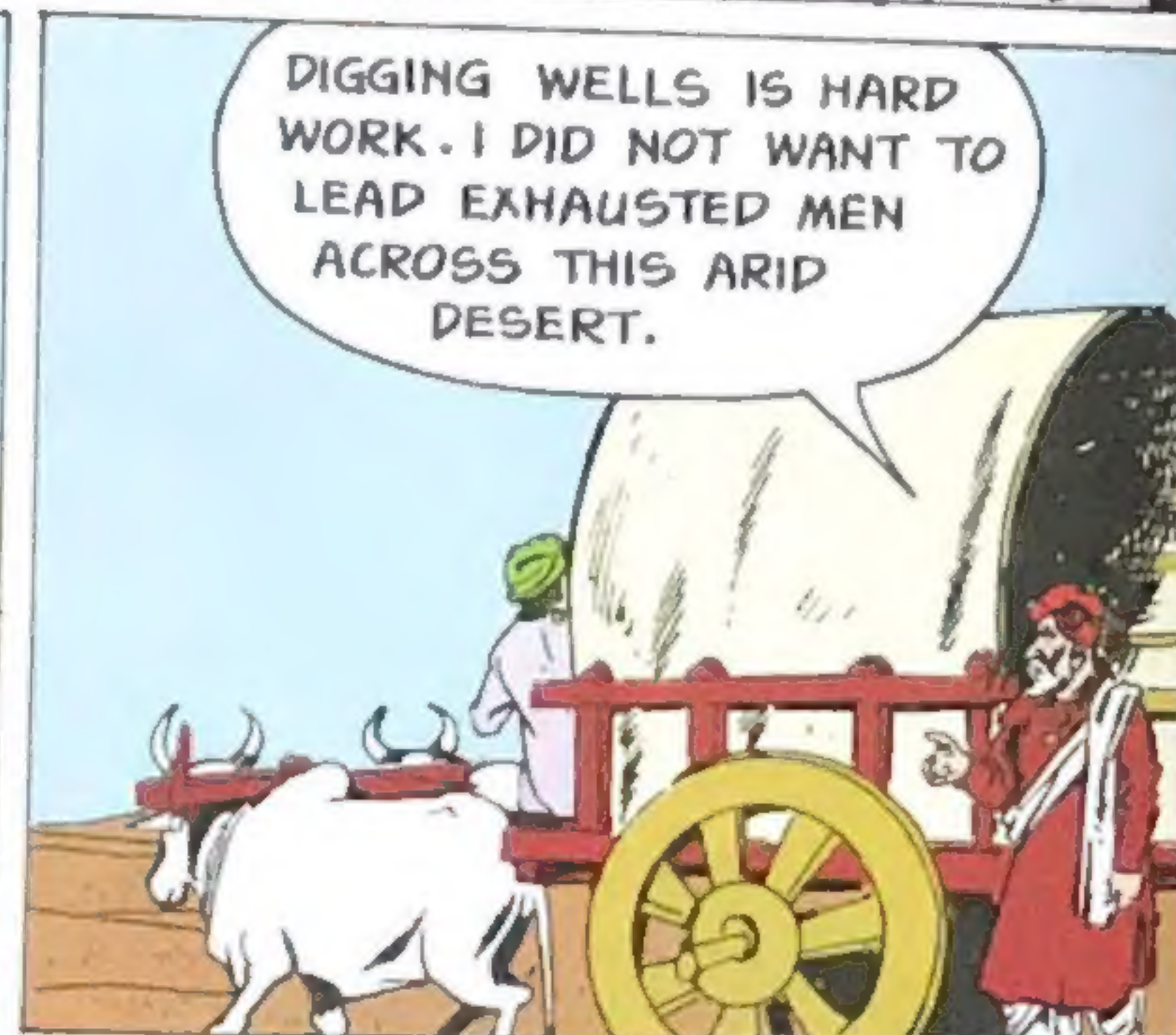
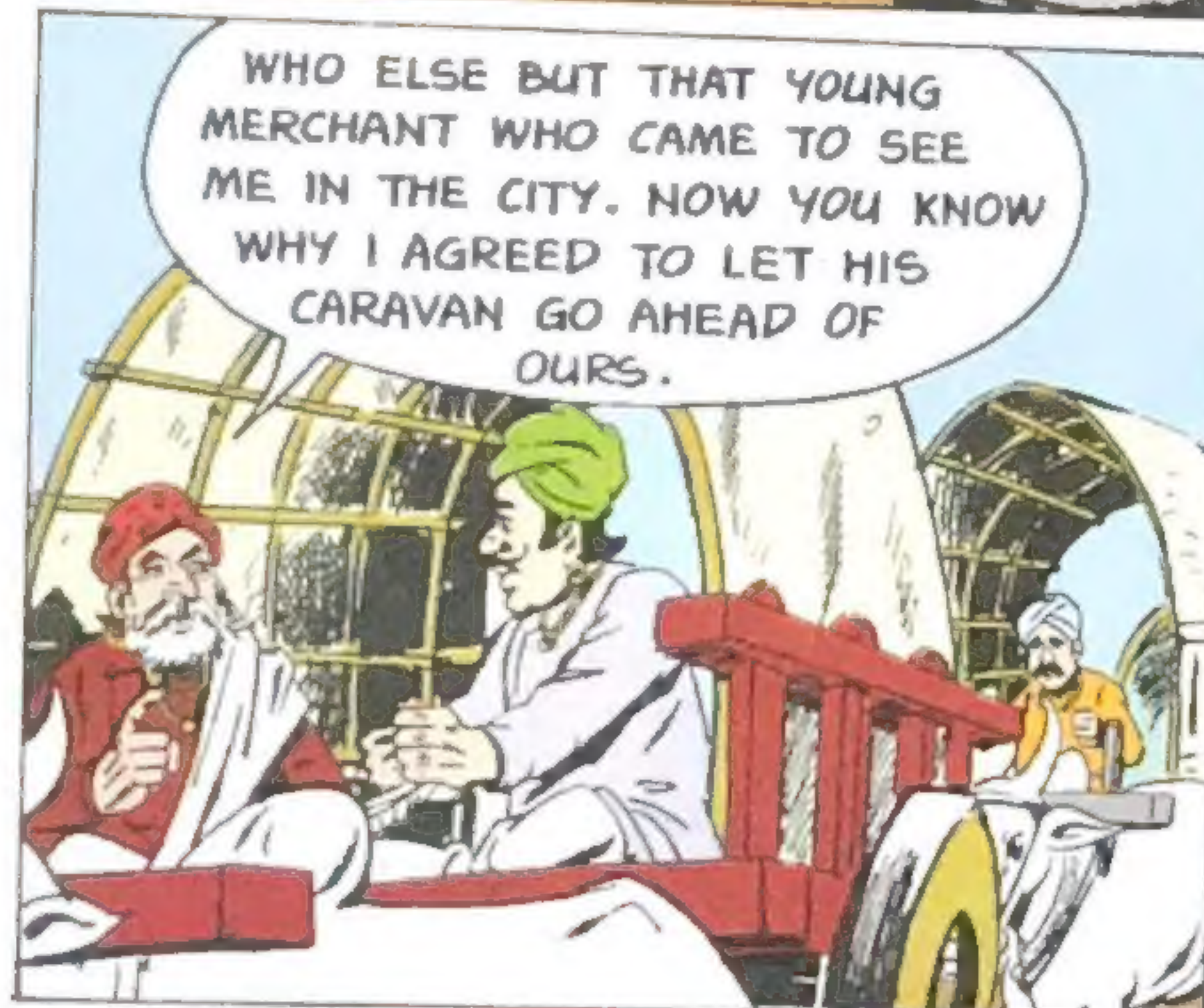
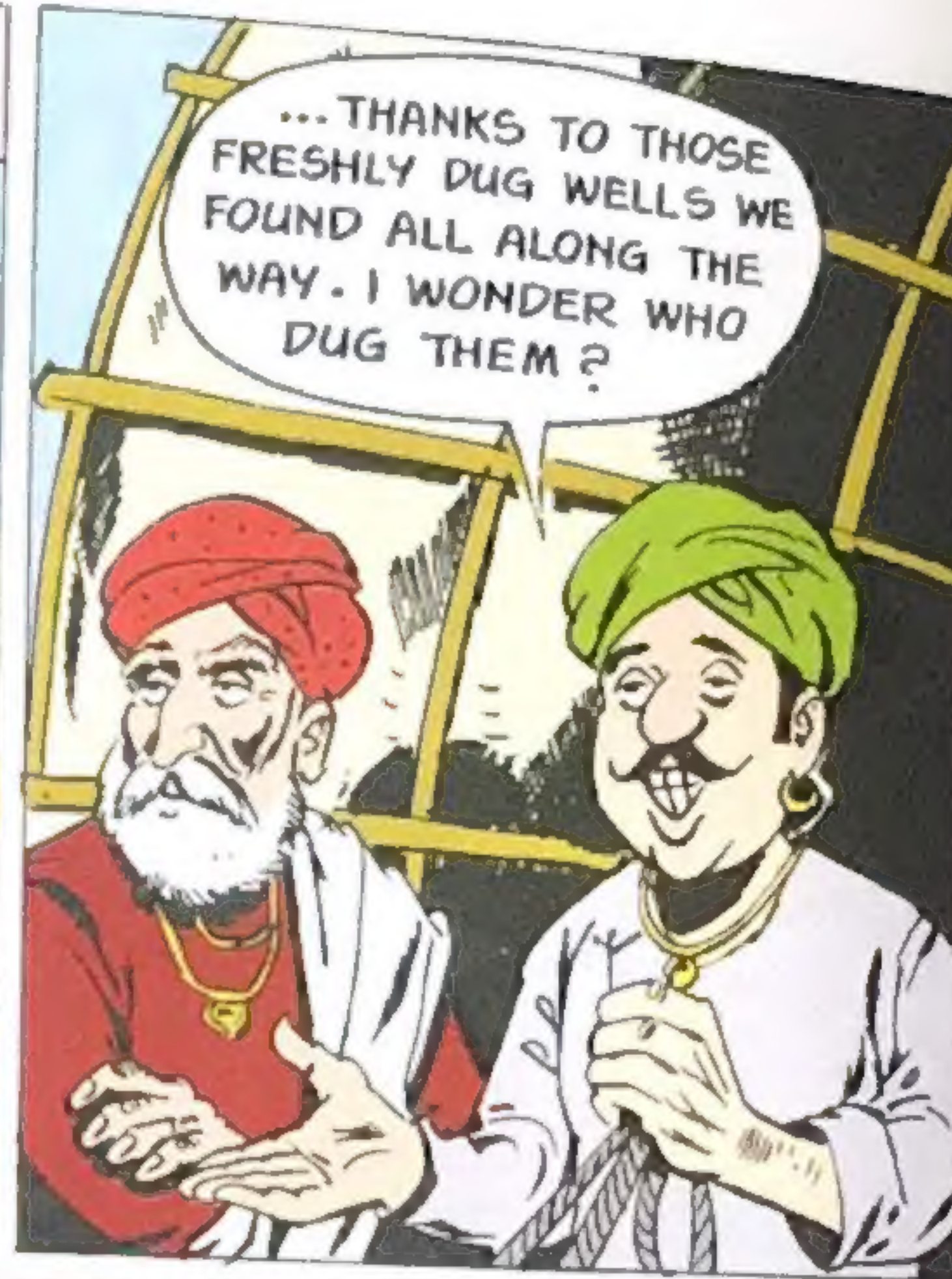


WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN IN THE CARAVAN OF THAT SMART YOUNG MERCHANT WHO VISITED OUR CAMP SOME DAYS AGO.

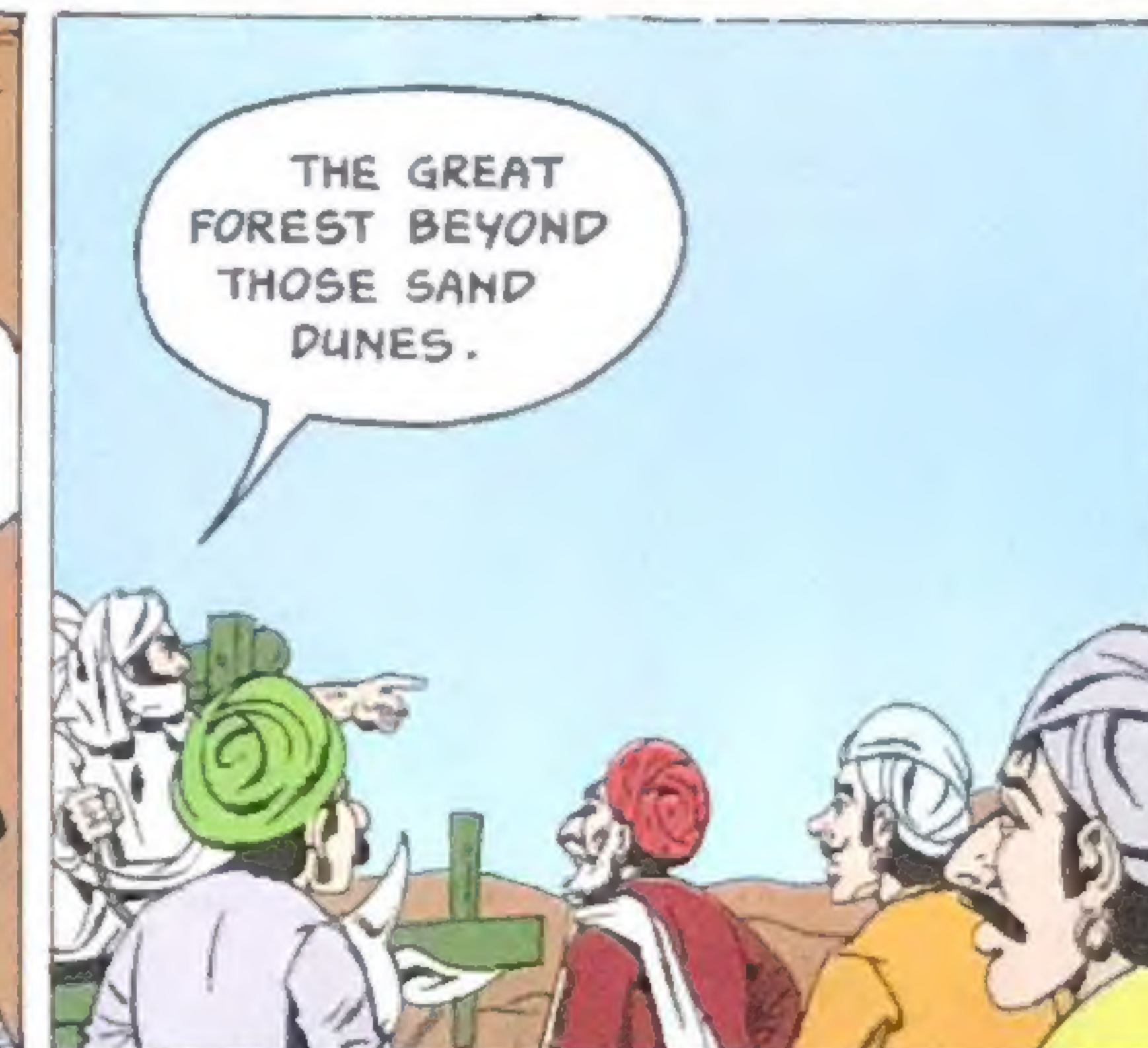
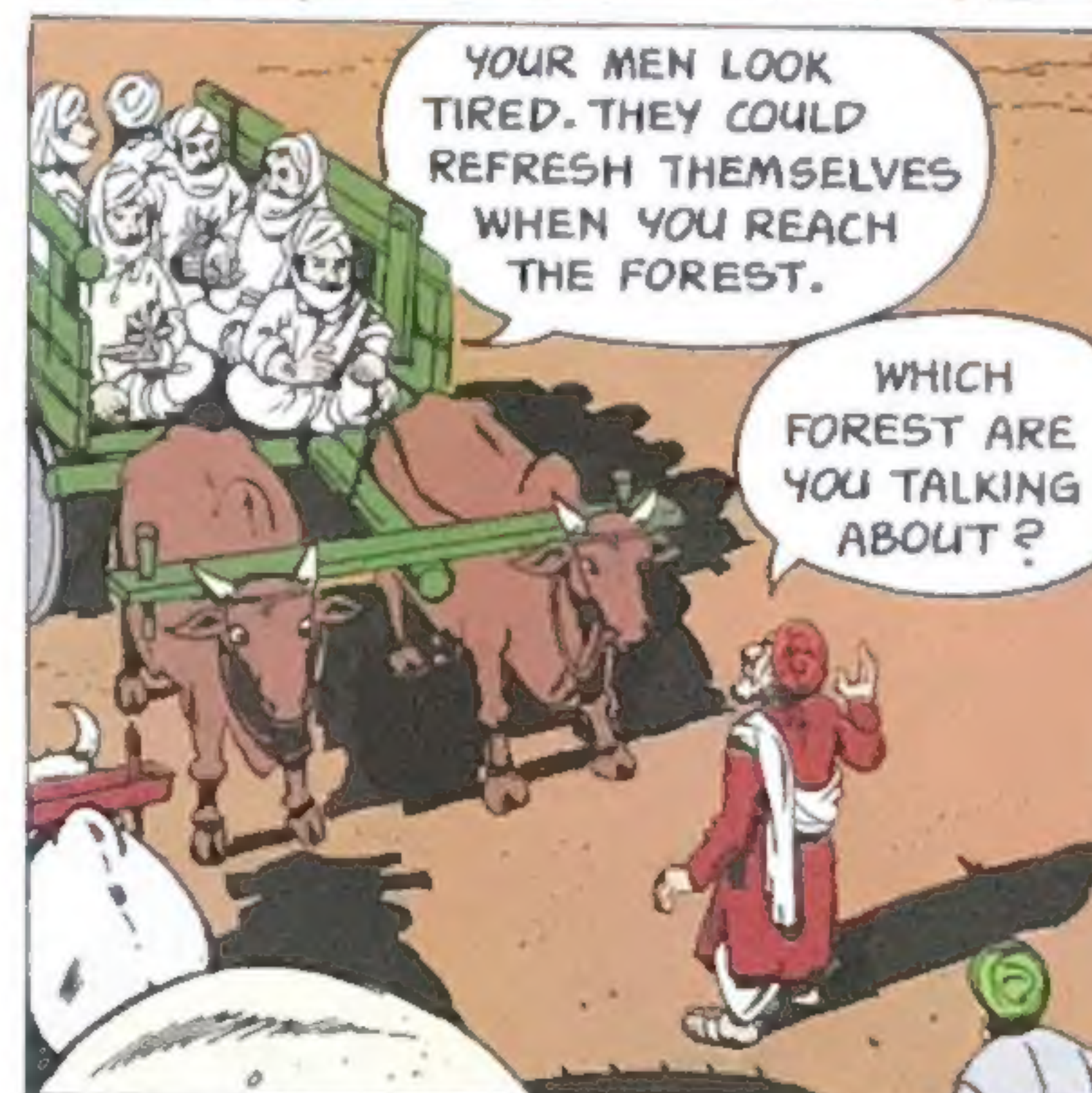


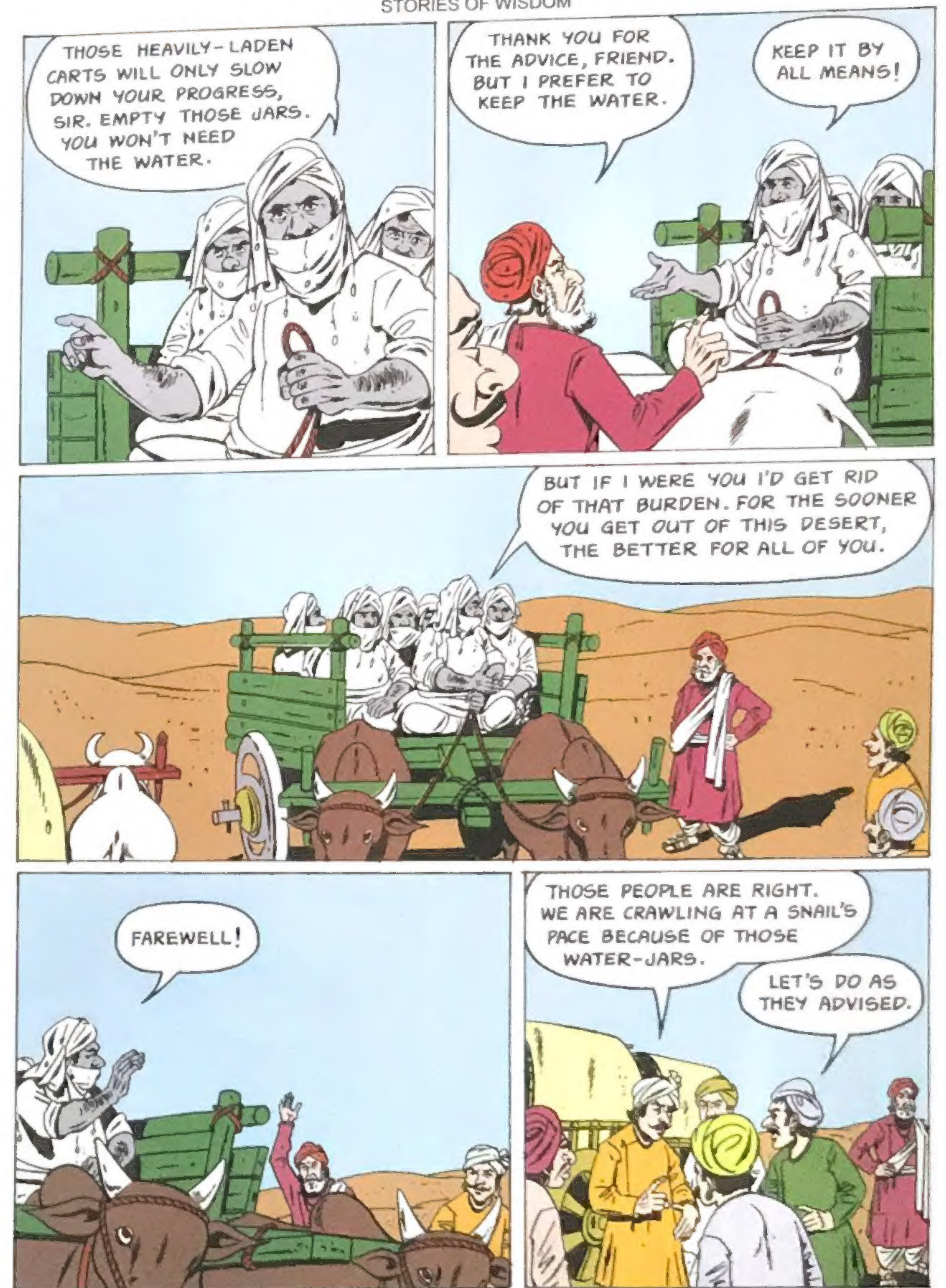
YES, WE SHOULD HAVE. HOW CLEVERLY HE TALKED OUR MASTER INTO LETTING HIM GO AHEAD OF US! HE MUST BE OUT OF THE DESERT BY NOW, THE LUCKY MAN!

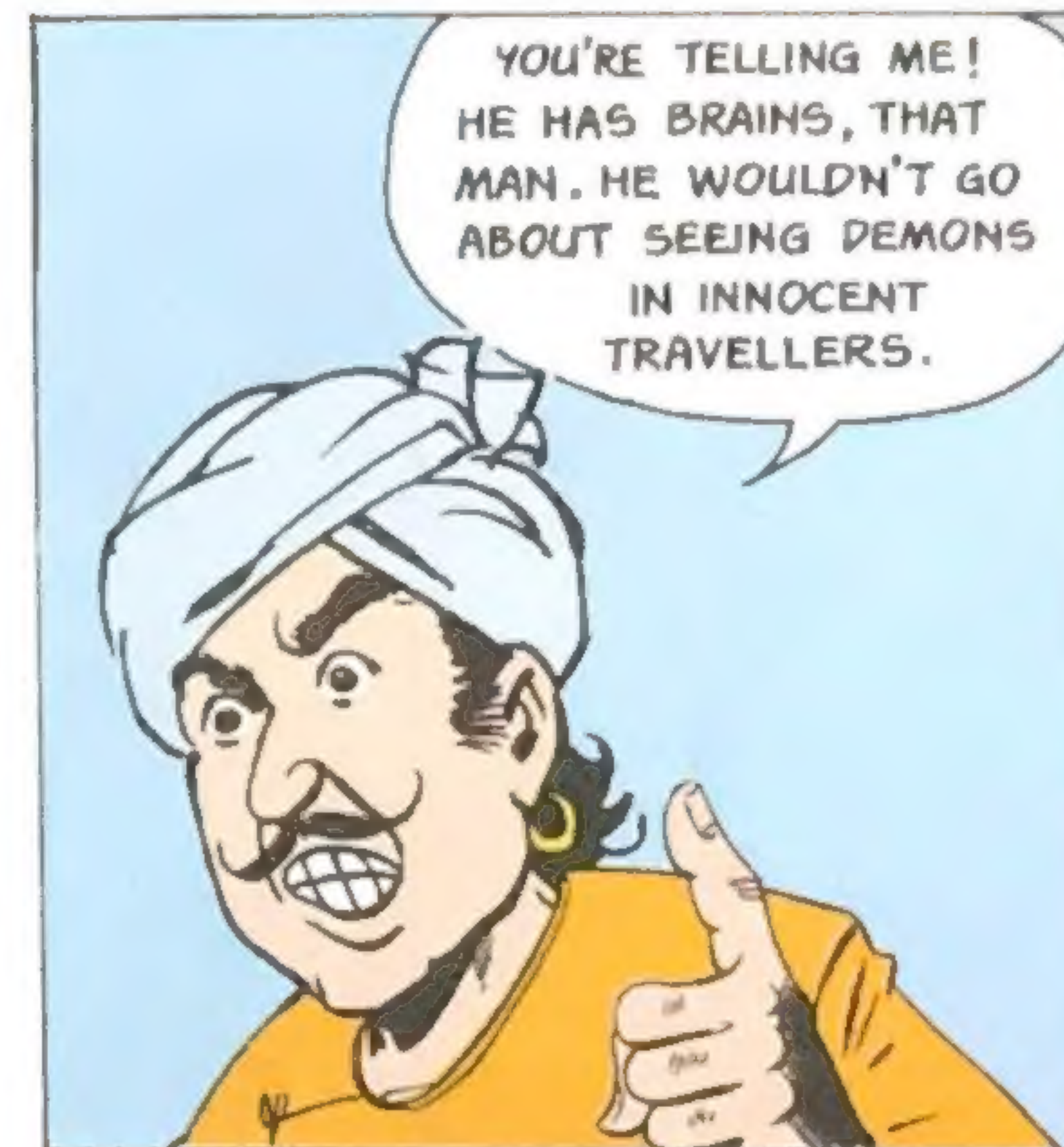
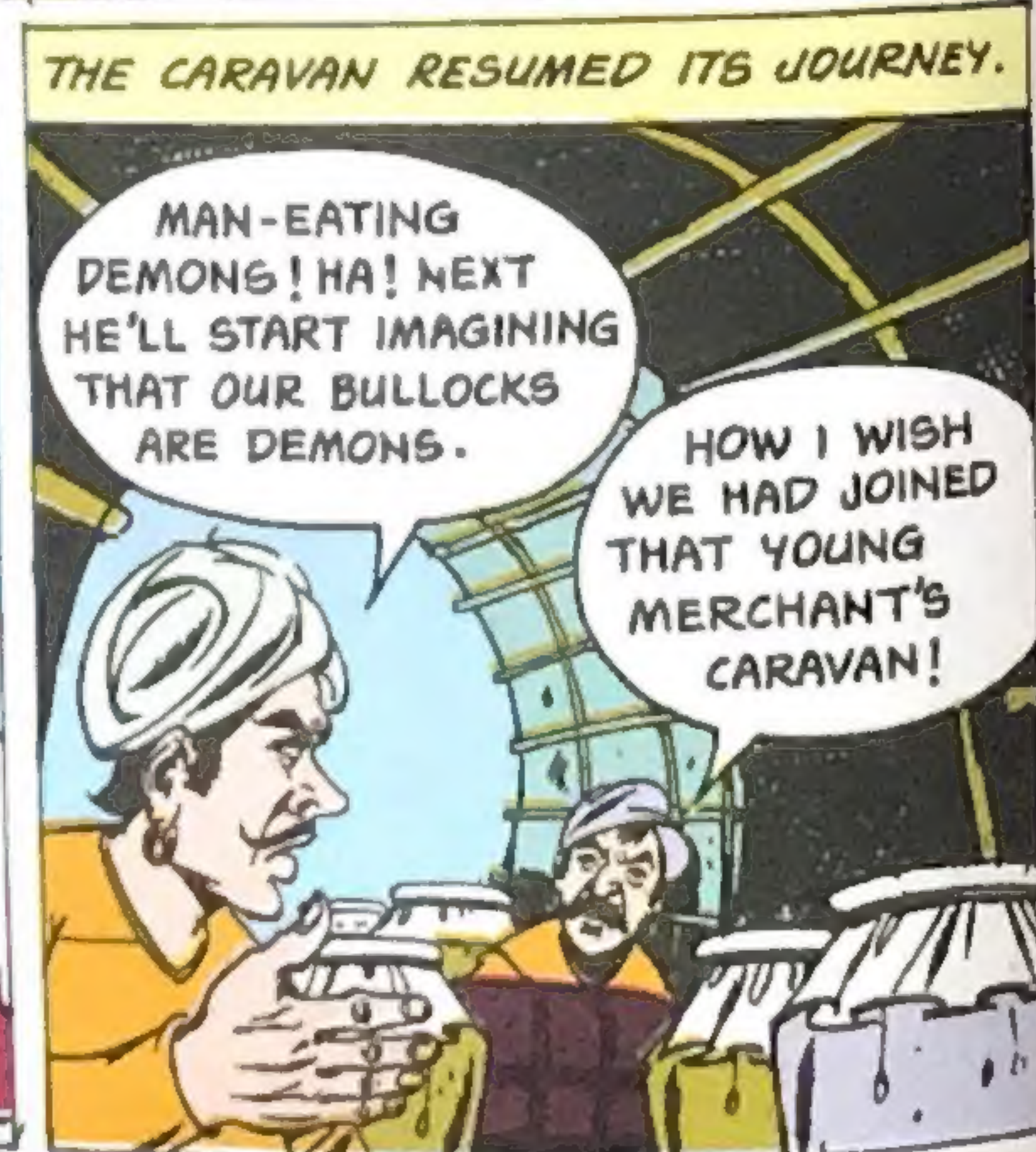
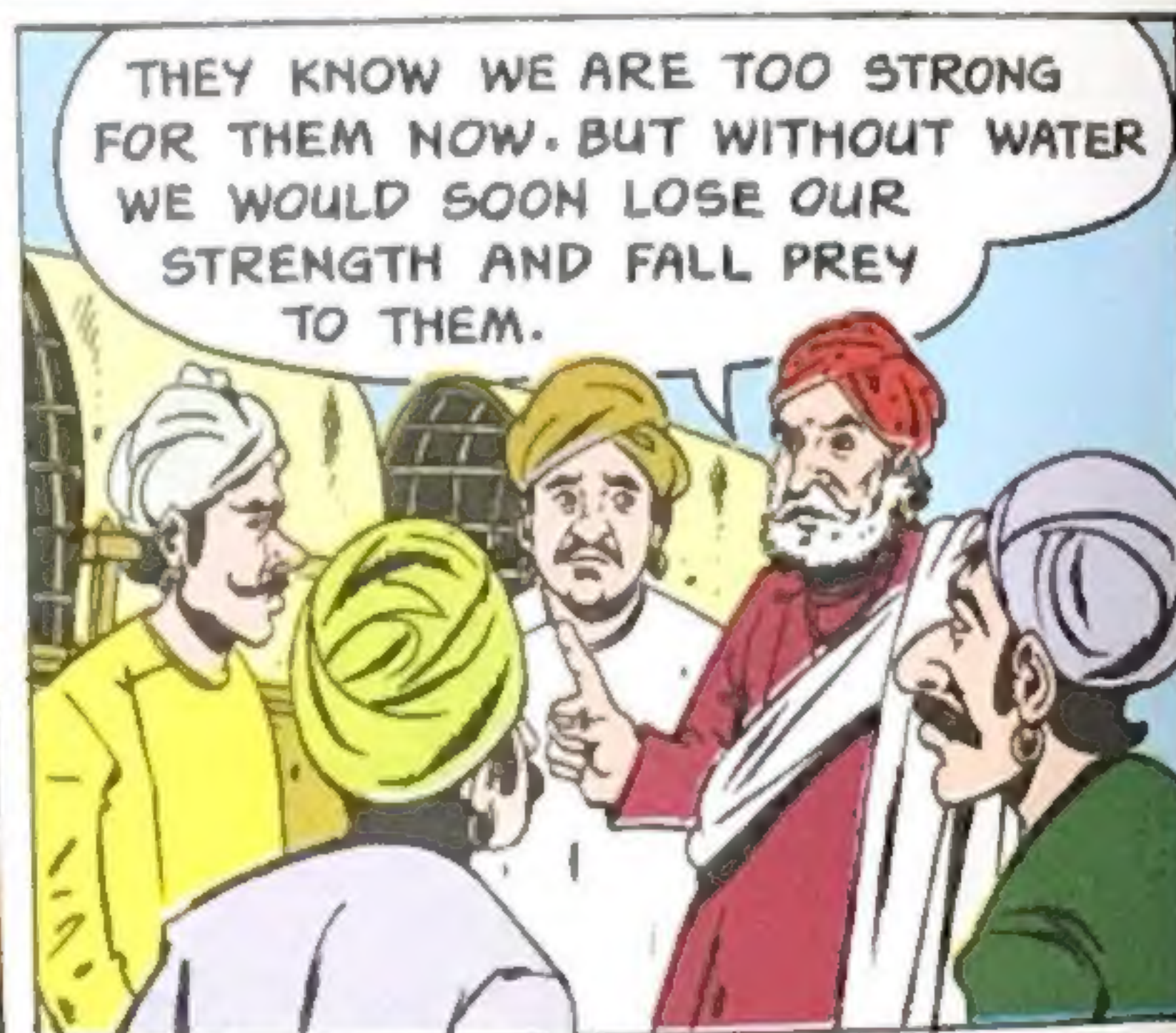
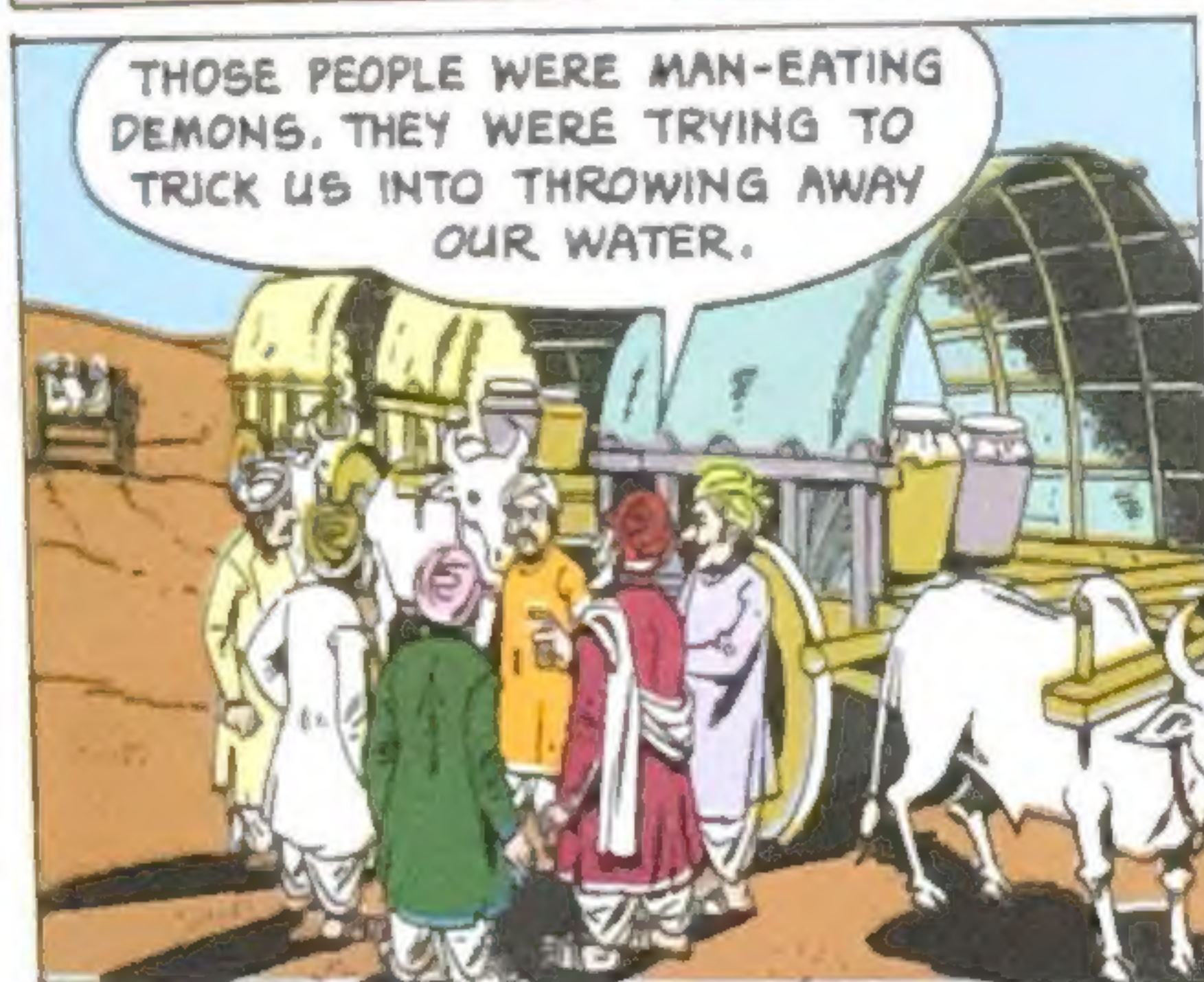
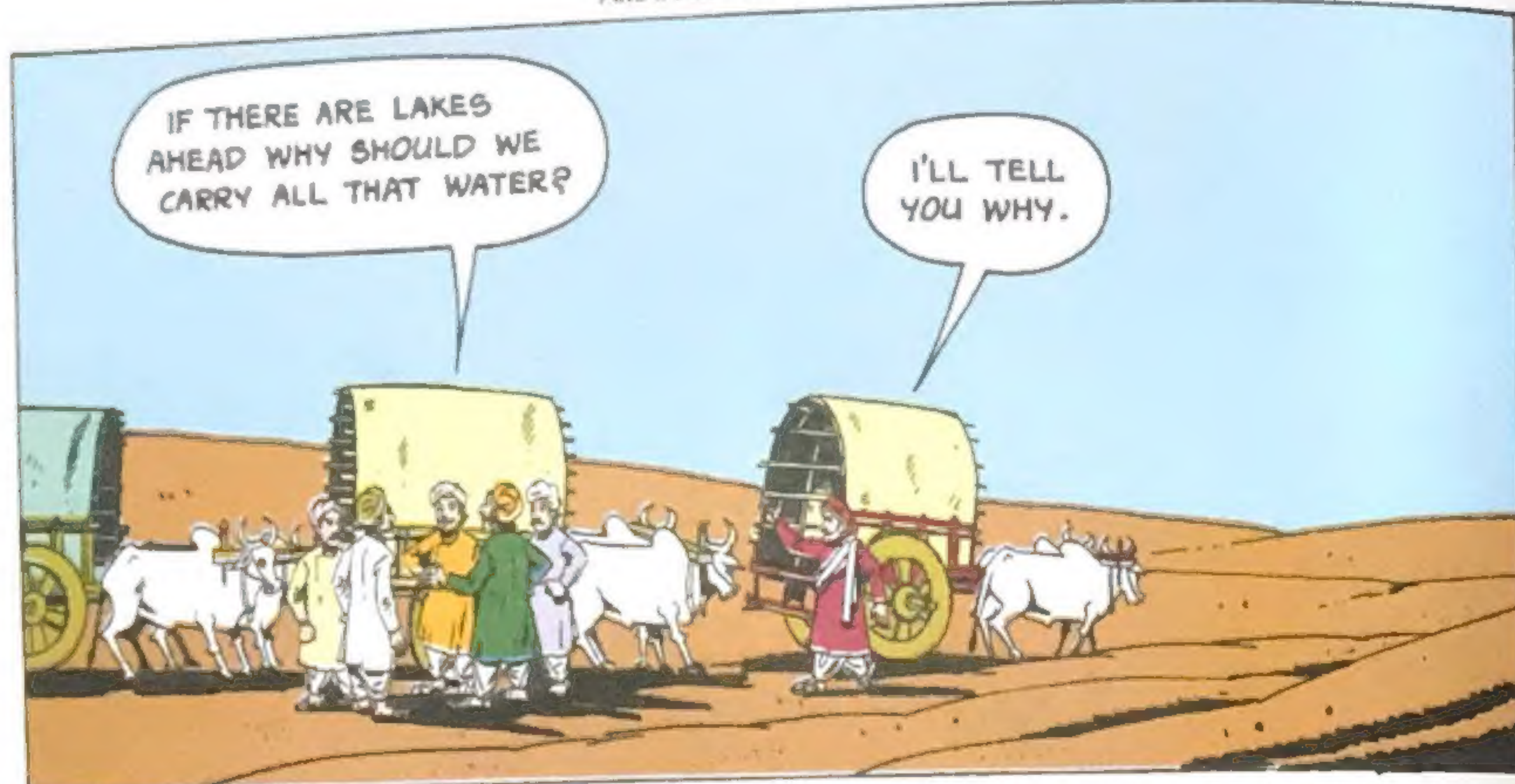
MEANWHILE, AT THE HEAD OF THE CARAVAN THE LEADER TURNED TO HIS CARTER.

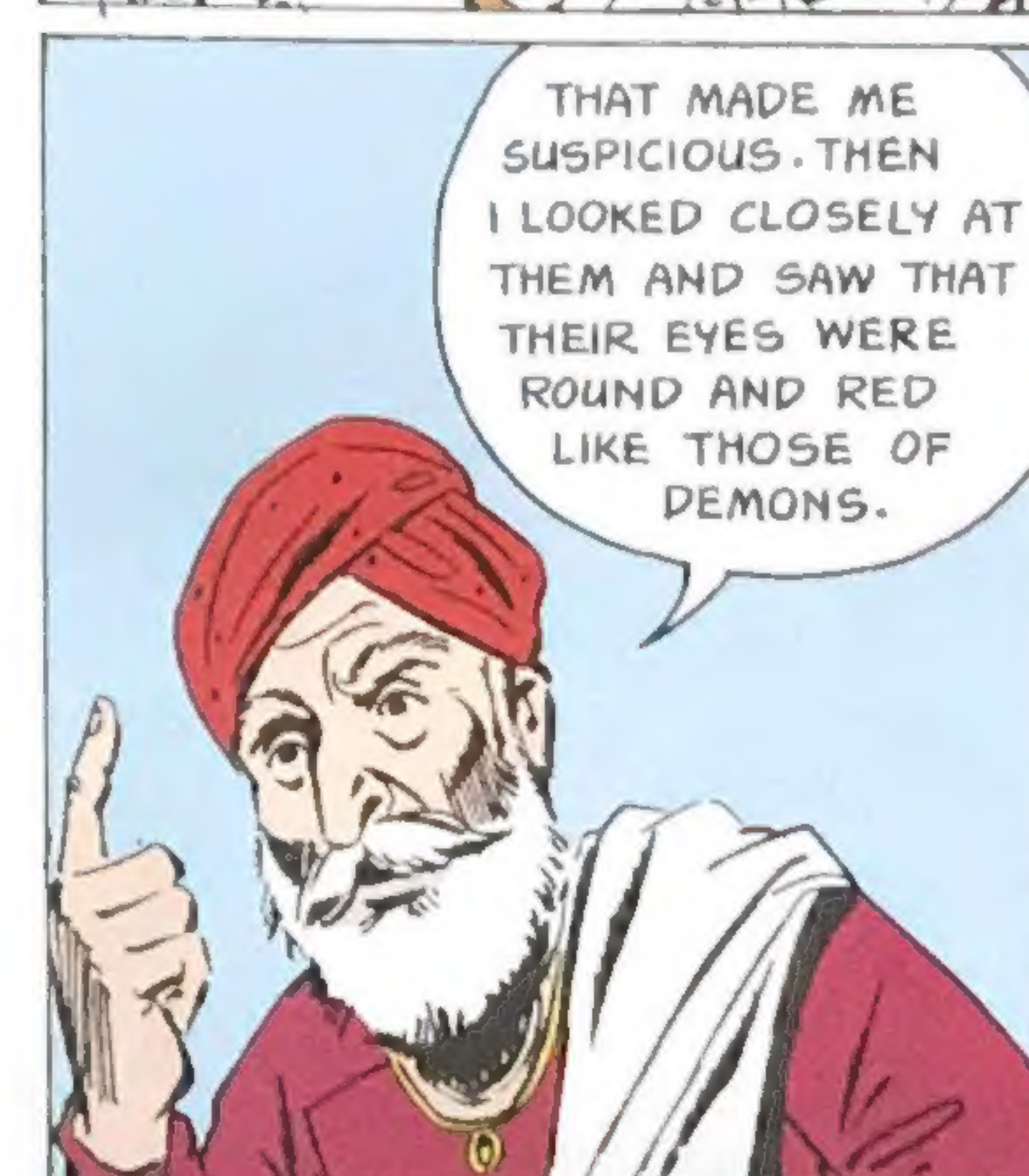
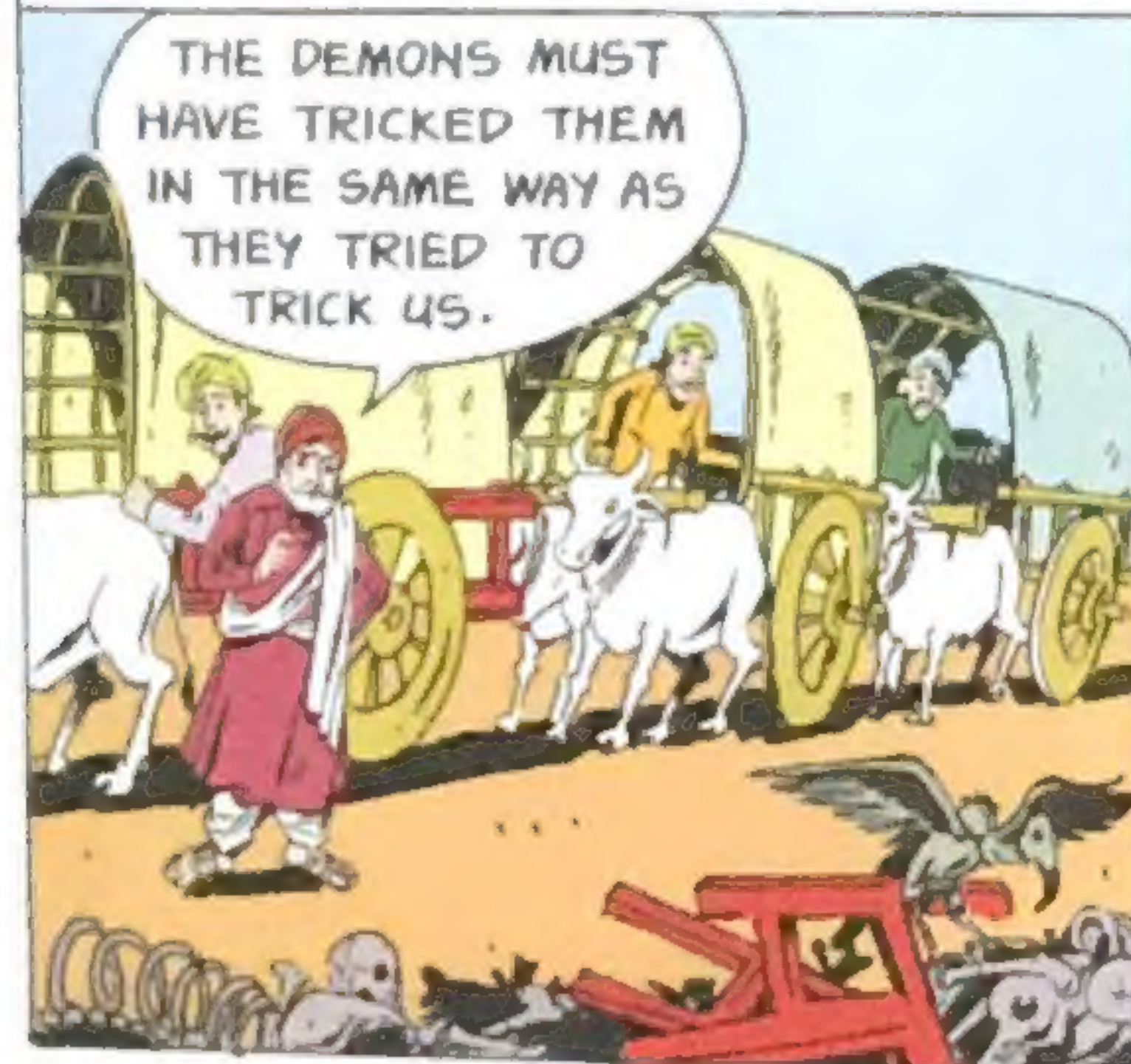
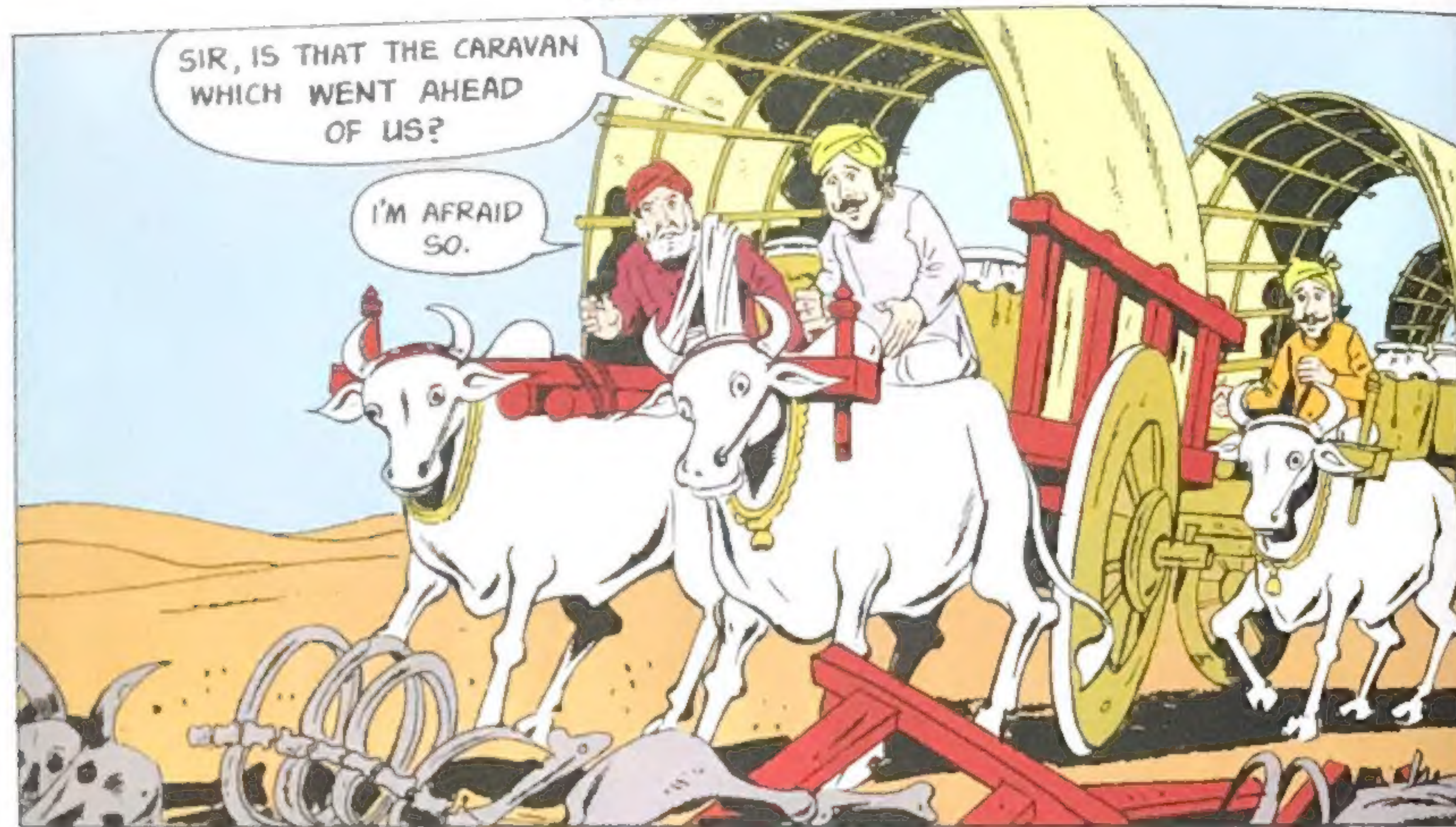


THE CARAVAN ENTERED THE DESERT AND BEGAN TO MAKE SLOW, BUT STEADY PROGRESS. SEVERAL MILES LATER —



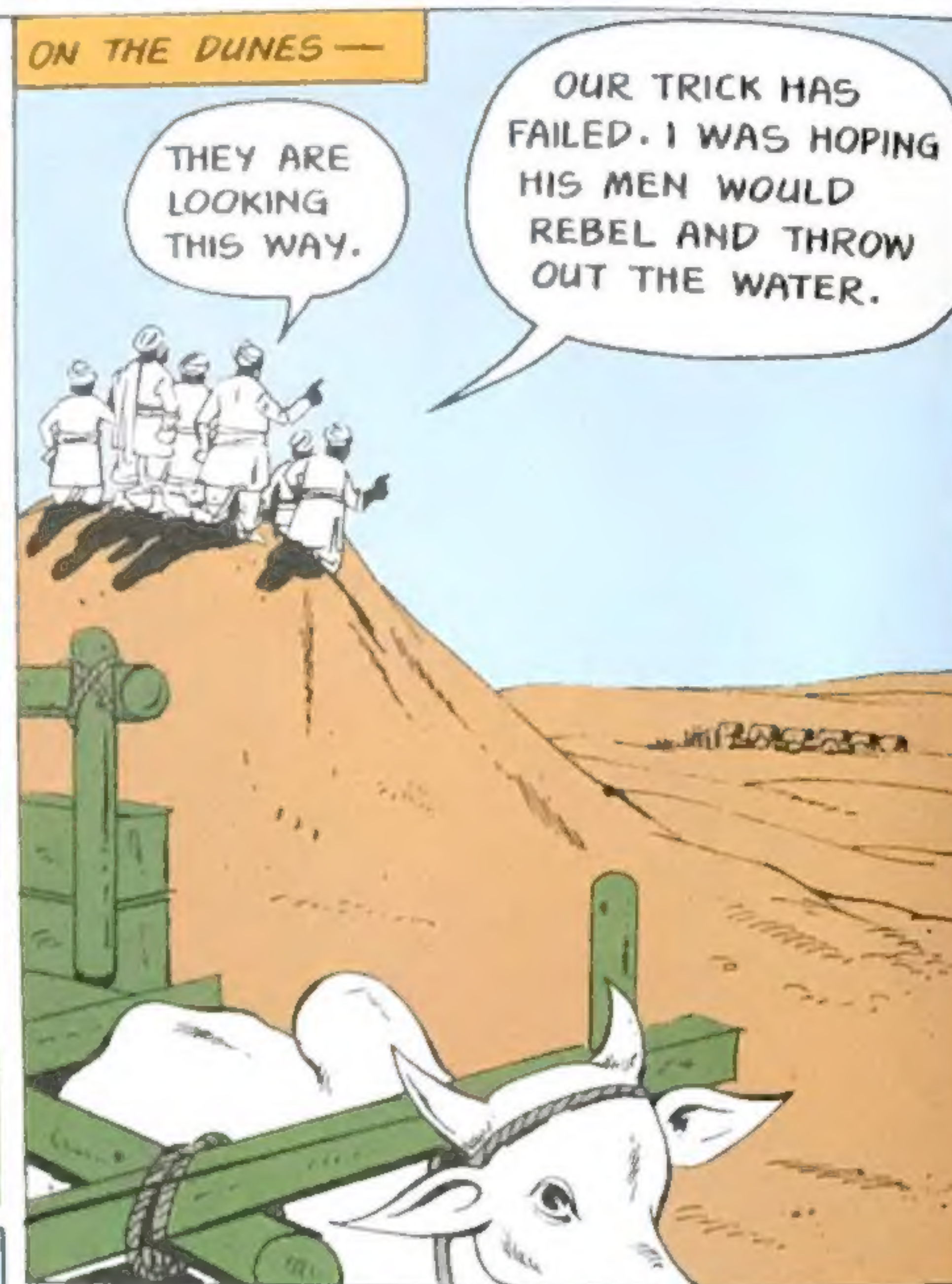








I AM SURE THEY ARE STILL WATCHING US FROM THE TOP OF THOSE DUNES.



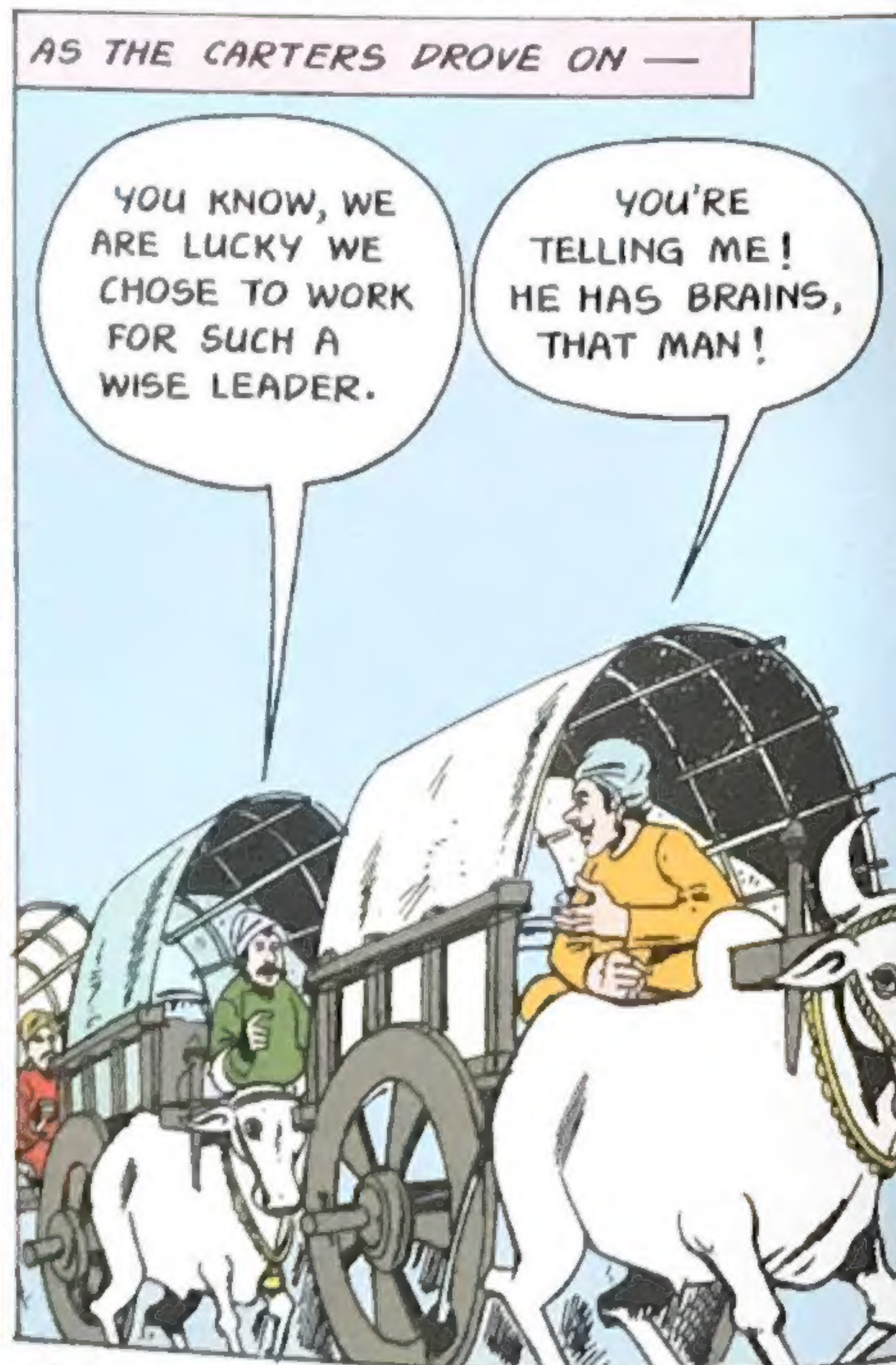
ON THE DUNES —

THEY ARE LOOKING THIS WAY.

OUR TRICK HAS FAILED. I WAS HOPING HIS MEN WOULD REBEL AND THROW OUT THE WATER.



BUT THERE'S NO CHANCE OF THAT HAPPENING NOW. LET'S GO BACK.



AS THE CARTERS DROVE ON —

YOU KNOW, WE ARE LUCKY WE CHOSE TO WORK FOR SUCH A WISE LEADER.

YOU'RE TELLING ME! HE HAS BRAINS, THAT MAN!

THE PRINCE AND THE SEEDLING



A CERTAIN KING WAS WORRIED ABOUT HIS SON.



HE IS SO WILFUL AND UNRULY. THE MINISTERS FEAR HIM, THE PEOPLE FEAR HIM... EVEN I FEAR HIM! WHAT AM I TO DO?

THEN ONE DAY HE APPROACHED A GREAT SAGE.



ONLY YOU CAN REFORM MY SON, HOLY SIR.

SEND HIM TO ME.

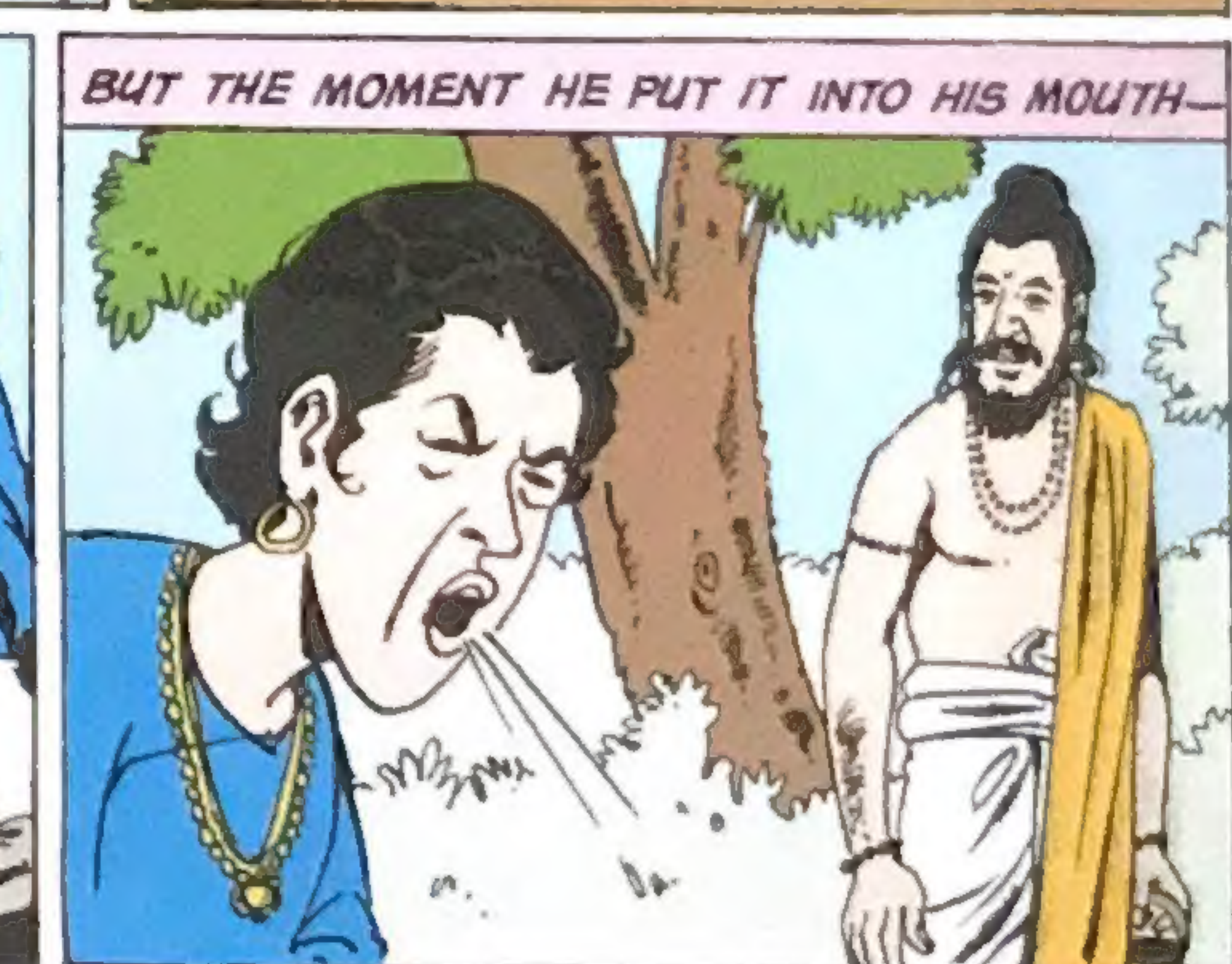
WHEN THE PRINCE CAME, THE SAGE TOOK HIM TO A CORNER OF THE GARDEN AND SHOWED HIM A NEEM SEEDLING.



PLUCK ONE OF THOSE LEAVES AND TASTE IT.



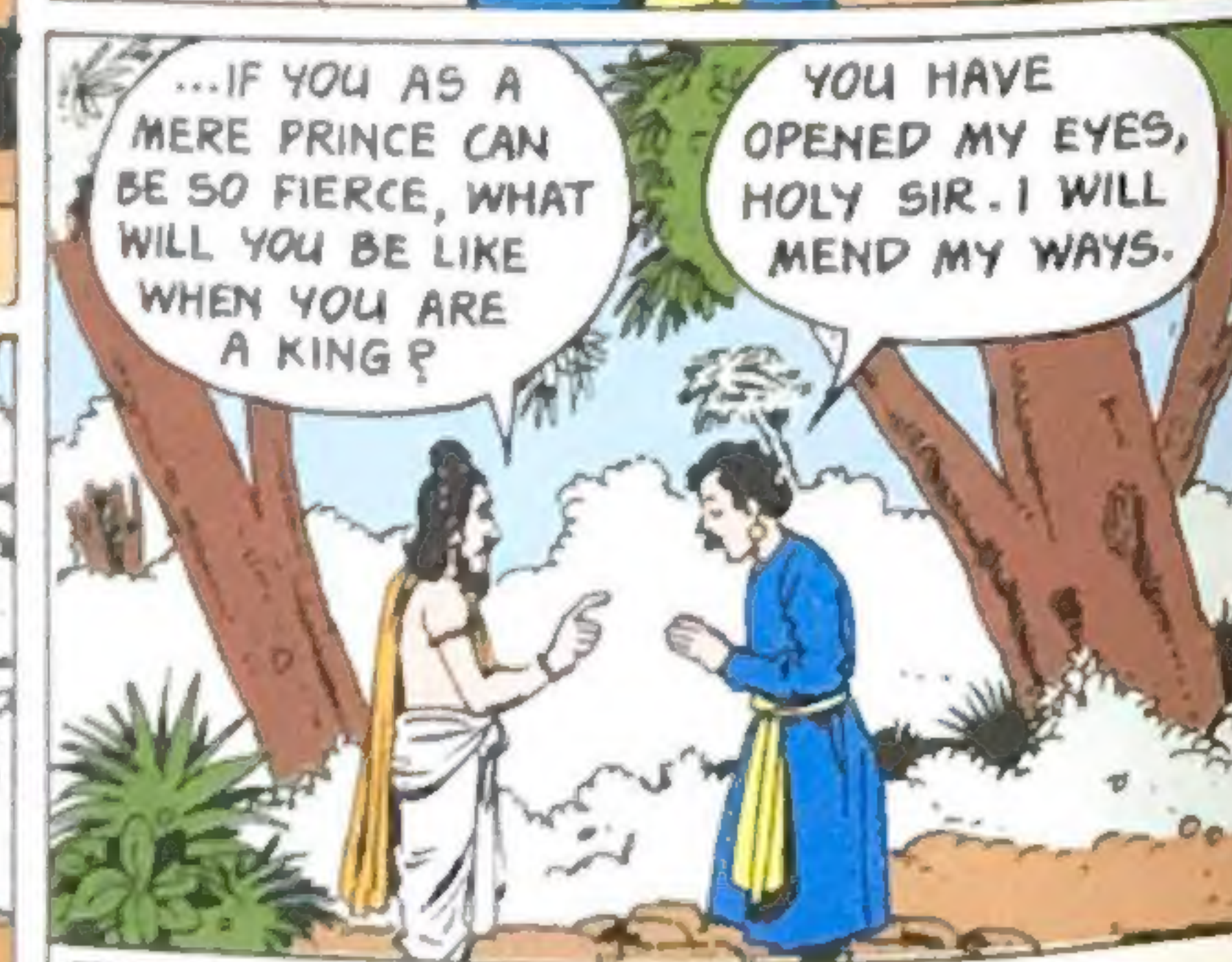
THE PRINCE PLUCKED A LEAF.



BUT THE MOMENT HE PUT IT INTO HIS MOUTH—

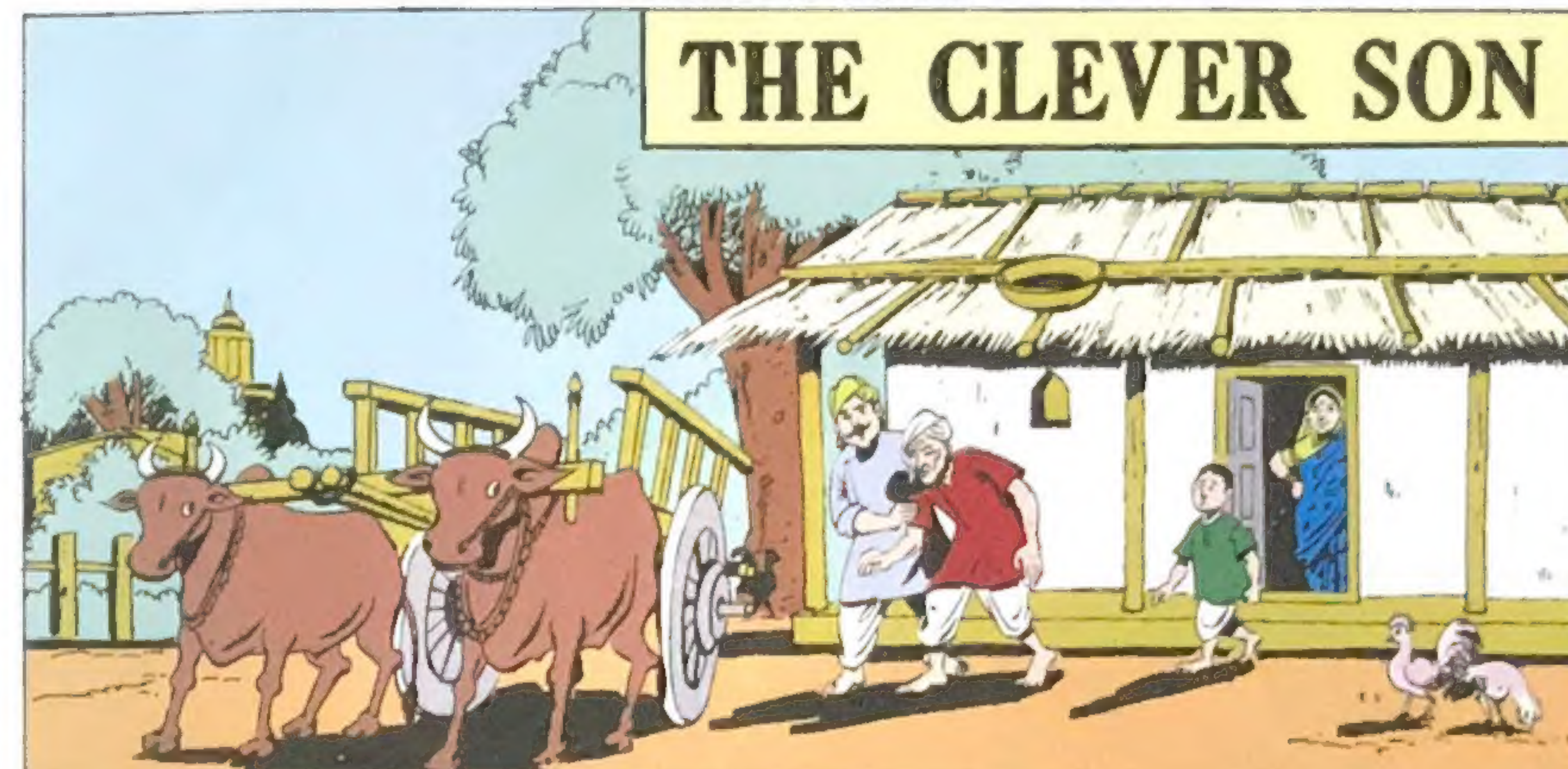


HE PLUCKED OUT THE SEEDLING...



THE PRINCE KEPT HIS PROMISE AND HE BECAME GENTLE AND KIND. AND YEARS LATER WHEN HIS FATHER DIED, THE PEOPLE HAD NO HESITATION IN MAKING HIM KING.

THE CLEVER SON



ONE MORNING A MAN COAXED HIS AGED FATHER TO GO OUT WITH HIM.



BUT THE BOY RAN AFTER THE CART AND JUMPED INTO IT.



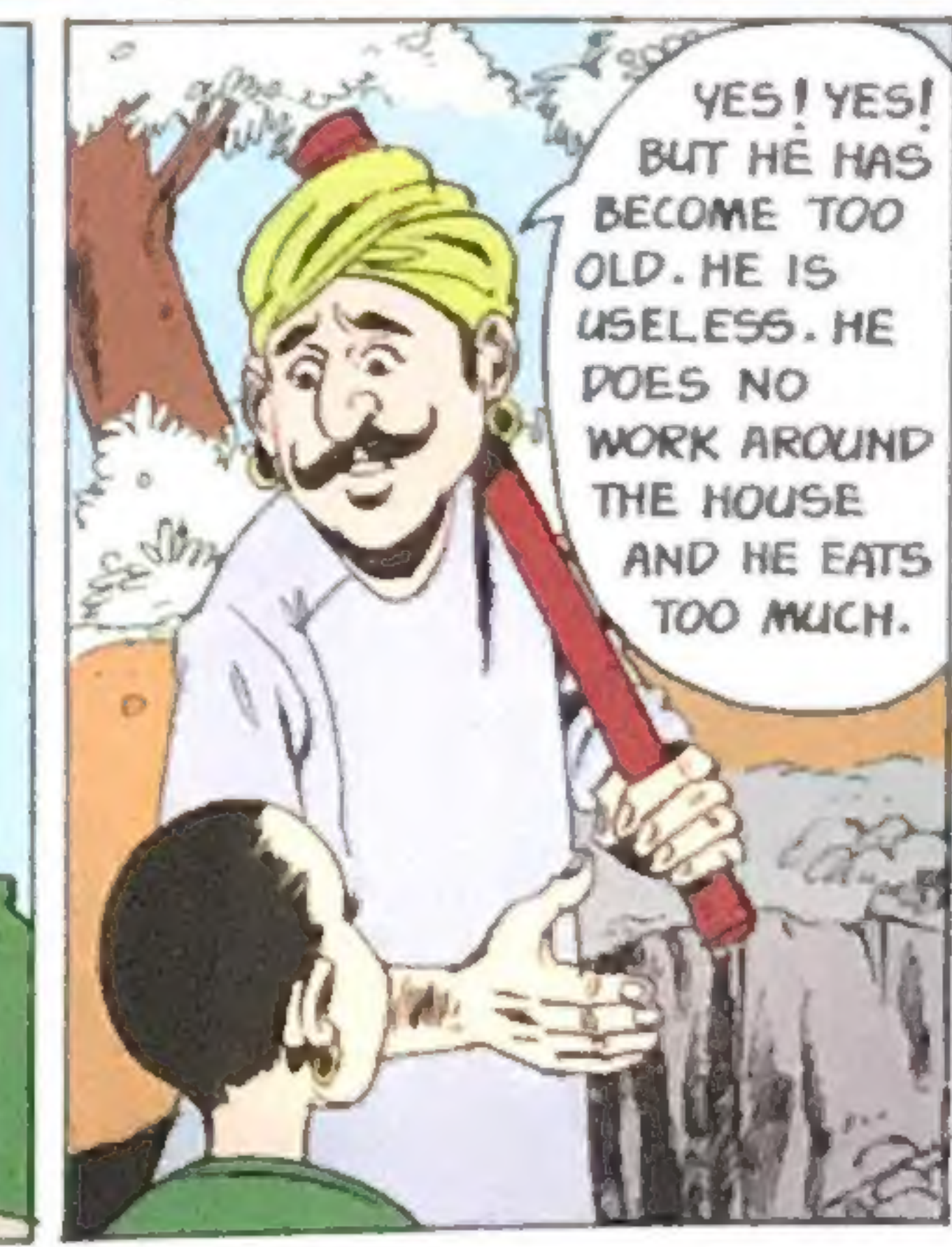
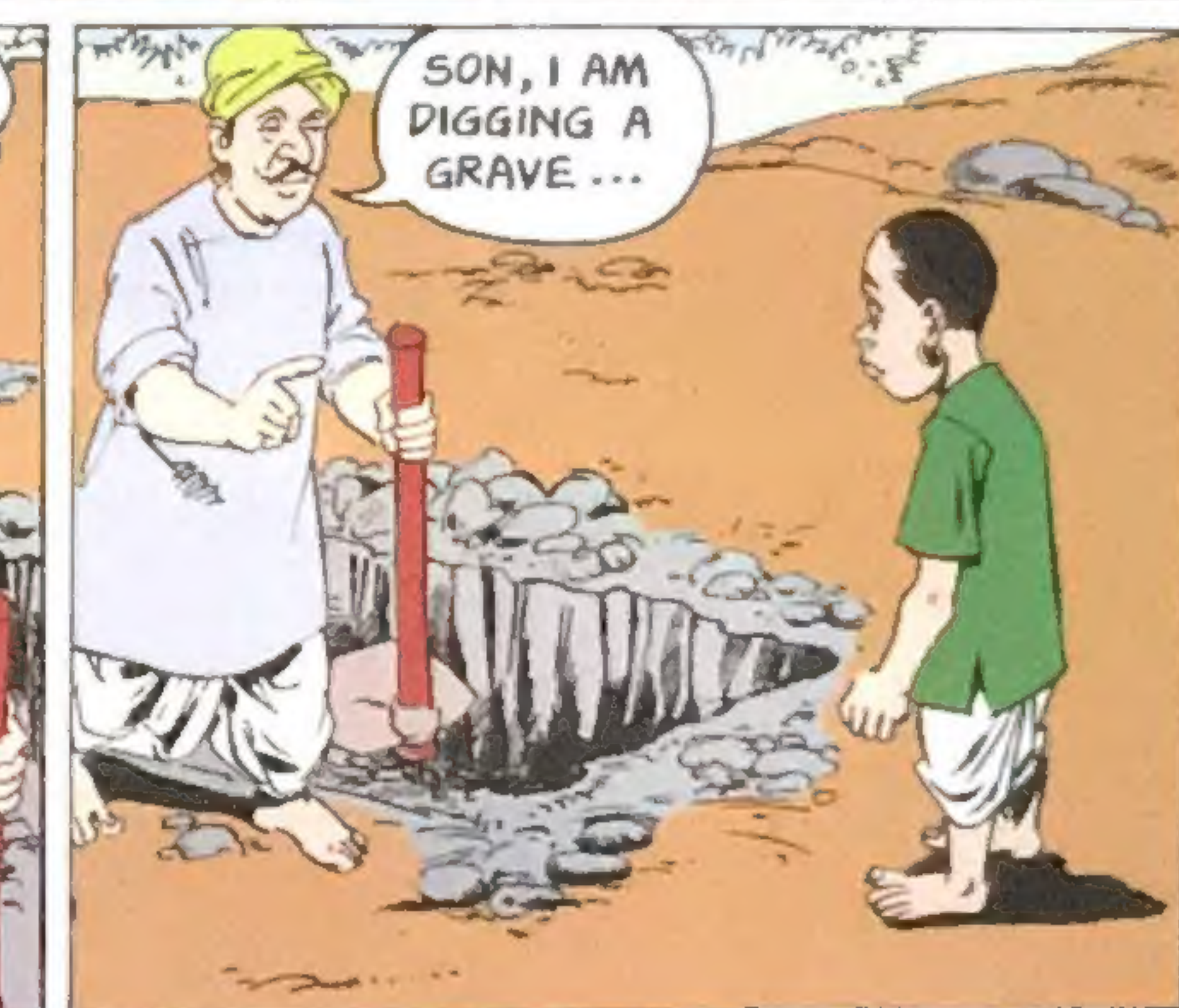
THE MAN STOPPED THE CART OUTSIDE A GRAVEYARD.

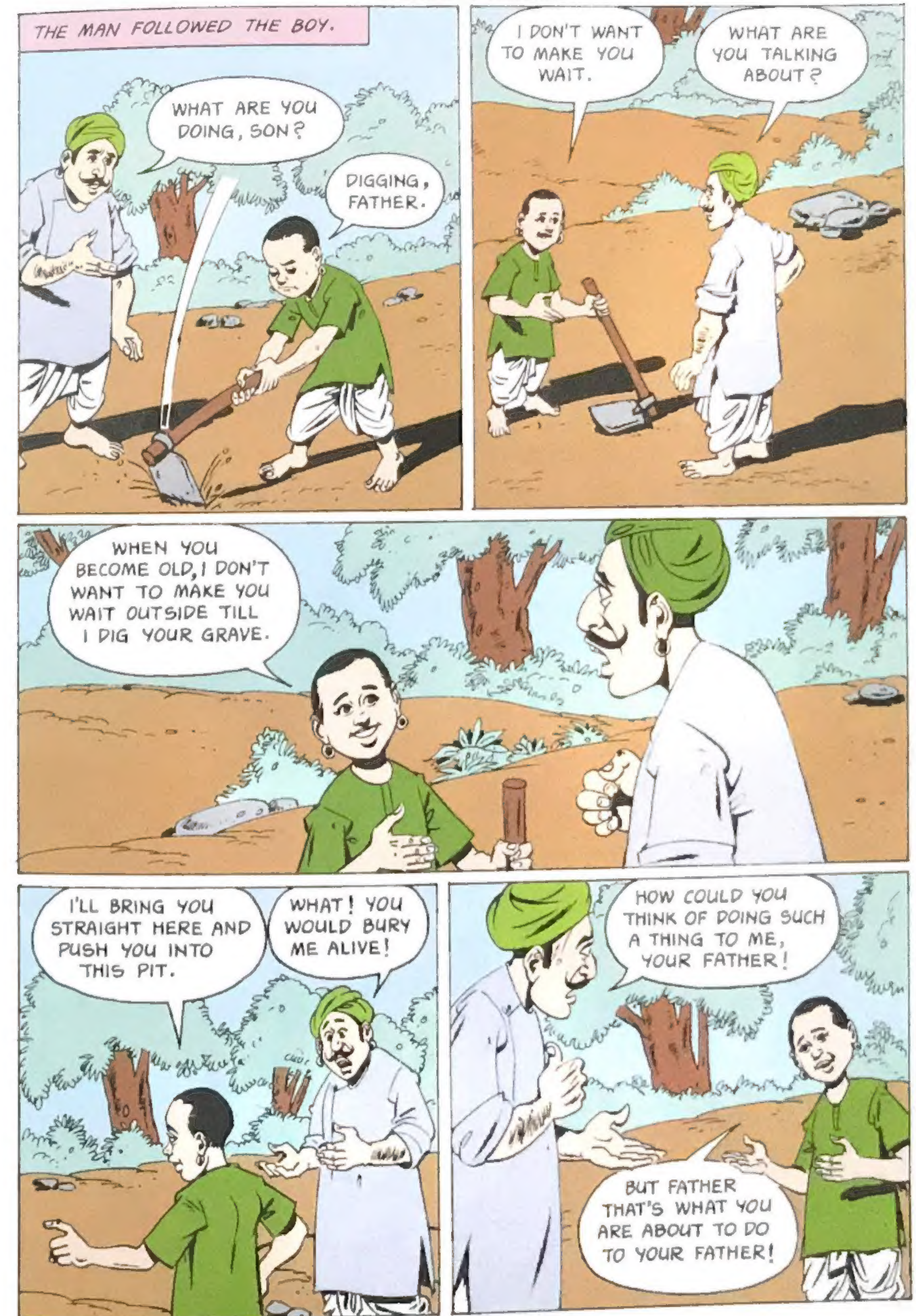


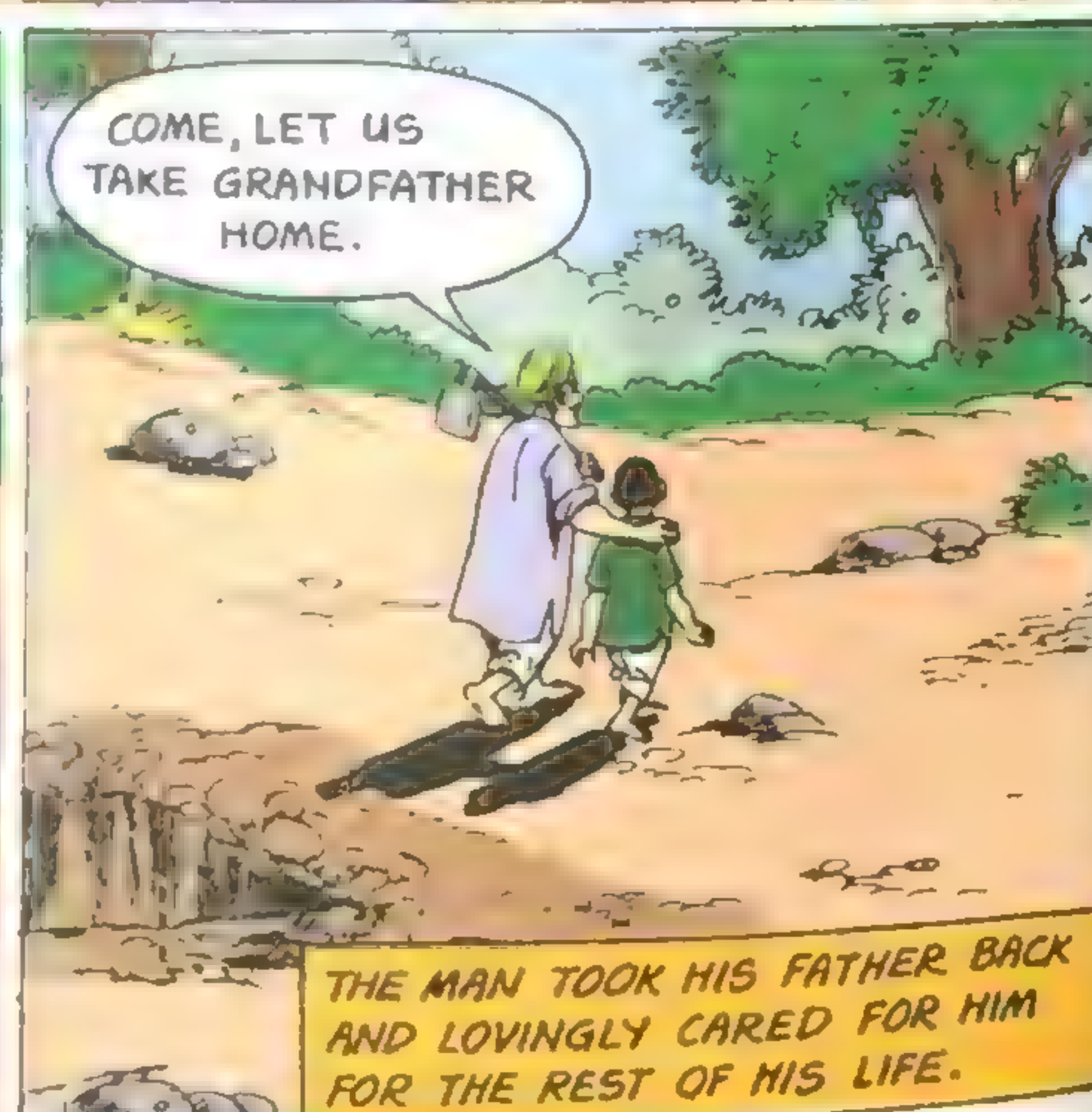
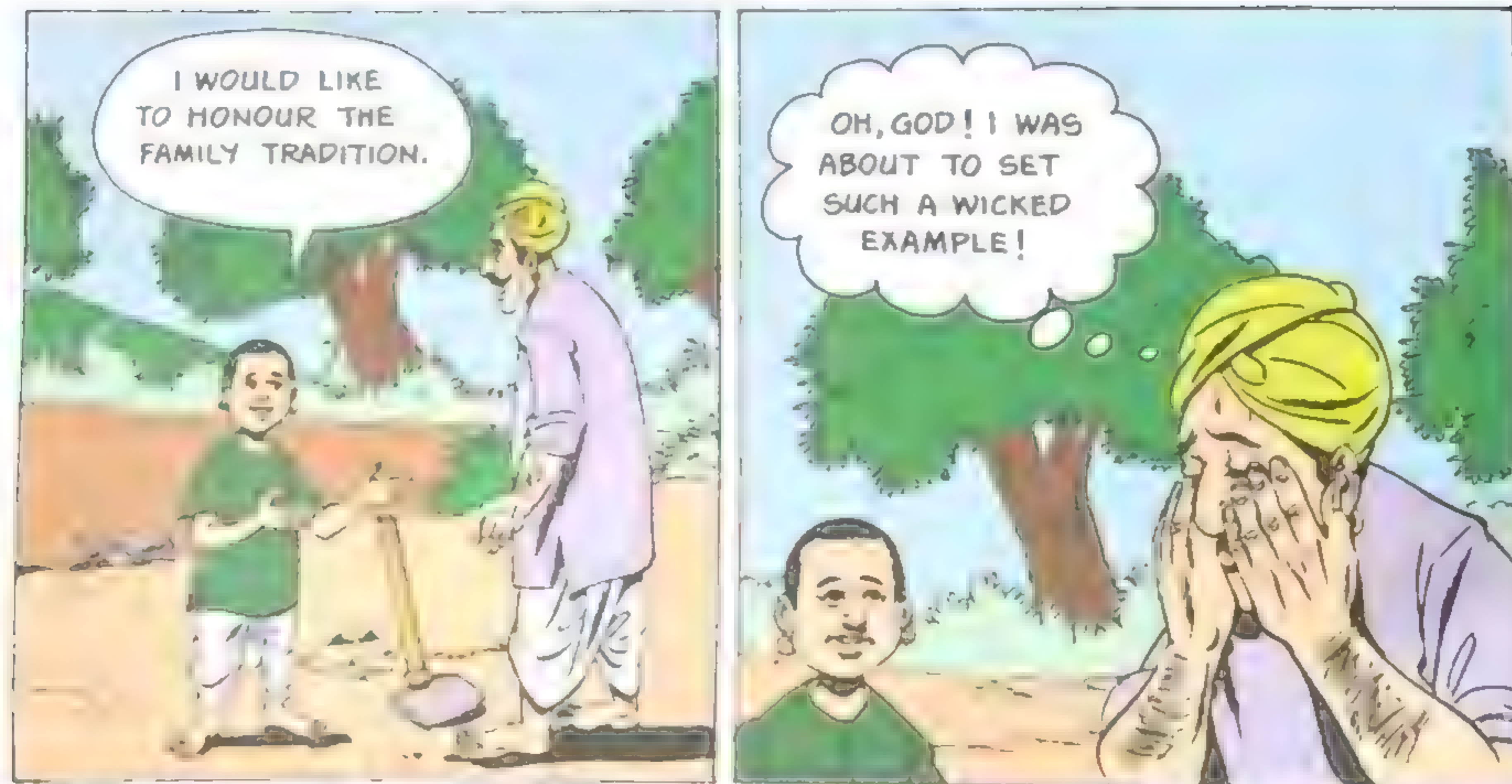
THEN GOING TO A SECLUDED SPOT IN THE GRAVEYARD HE BEGAN TO DIG.



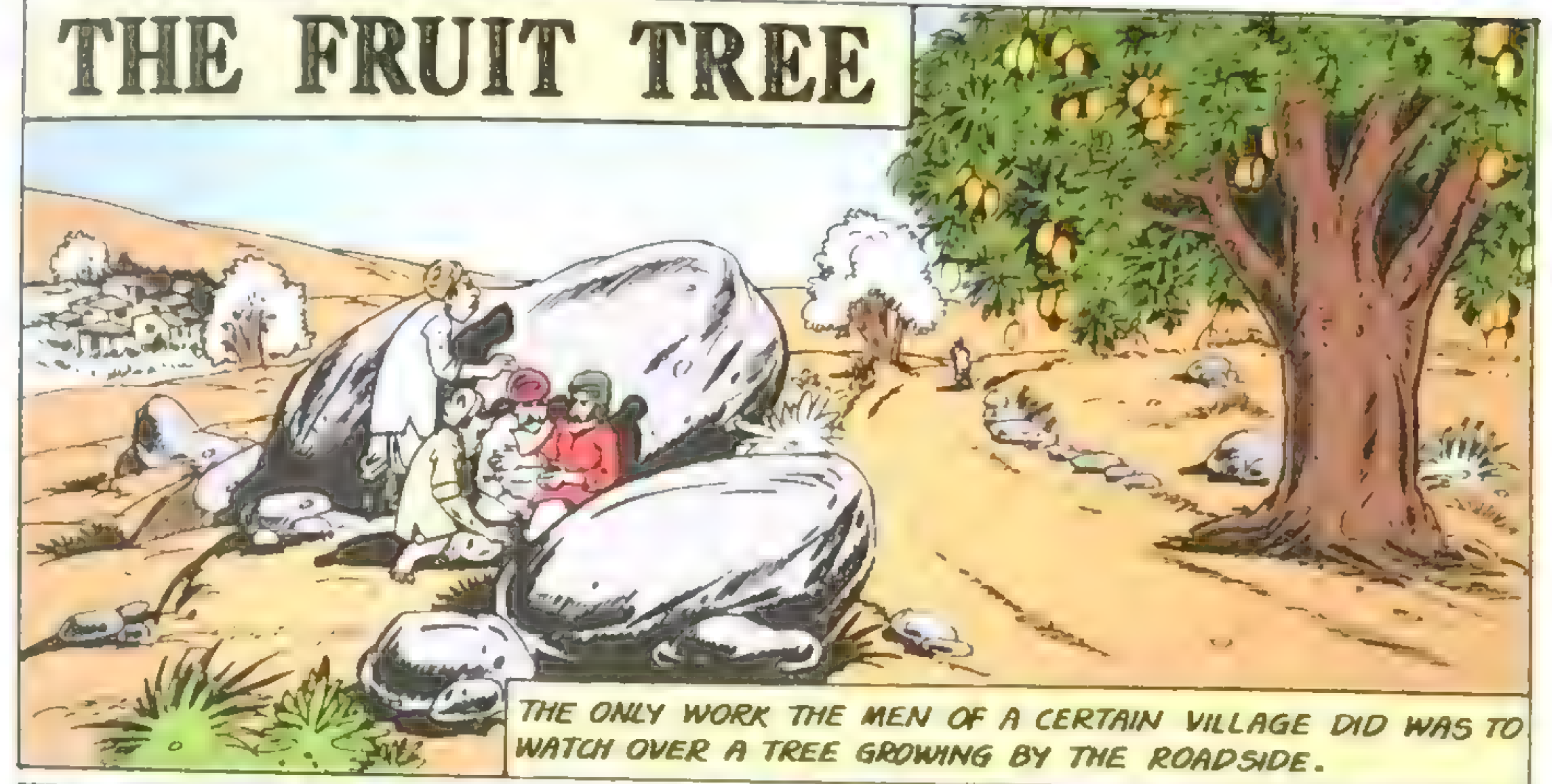
AFTER A WHILE, HIS SON CAME IN SEARCH OF HIM.

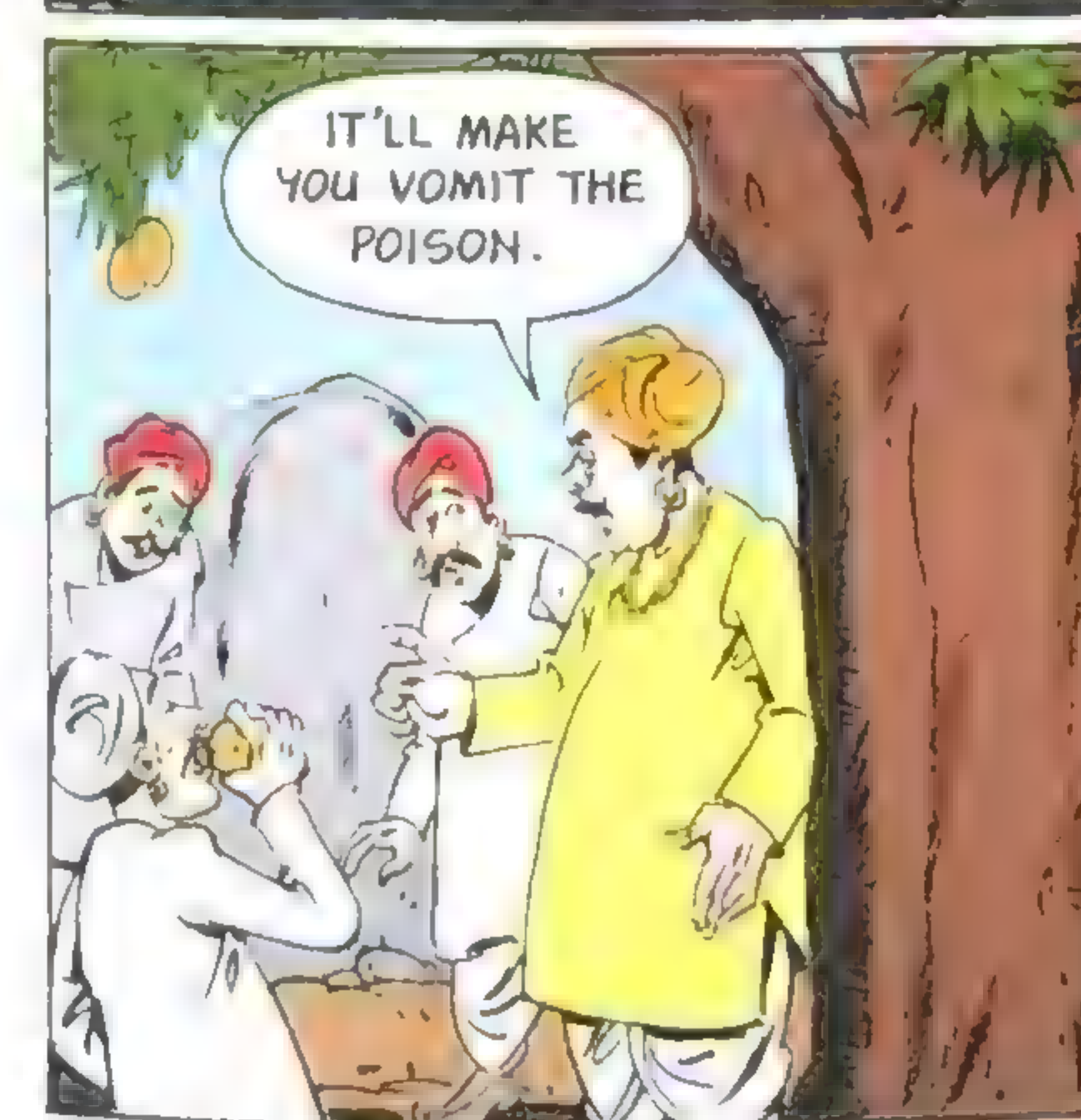
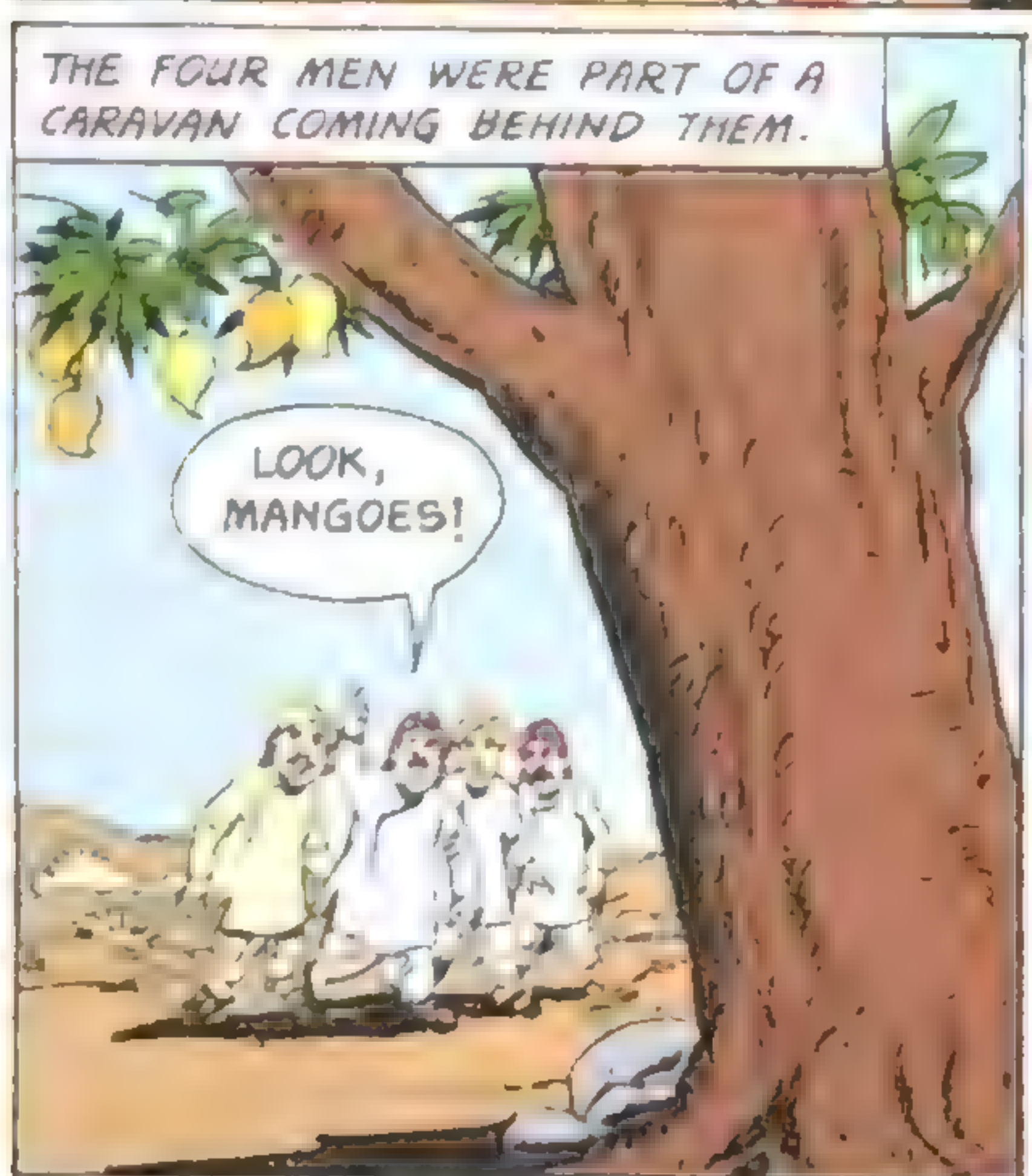
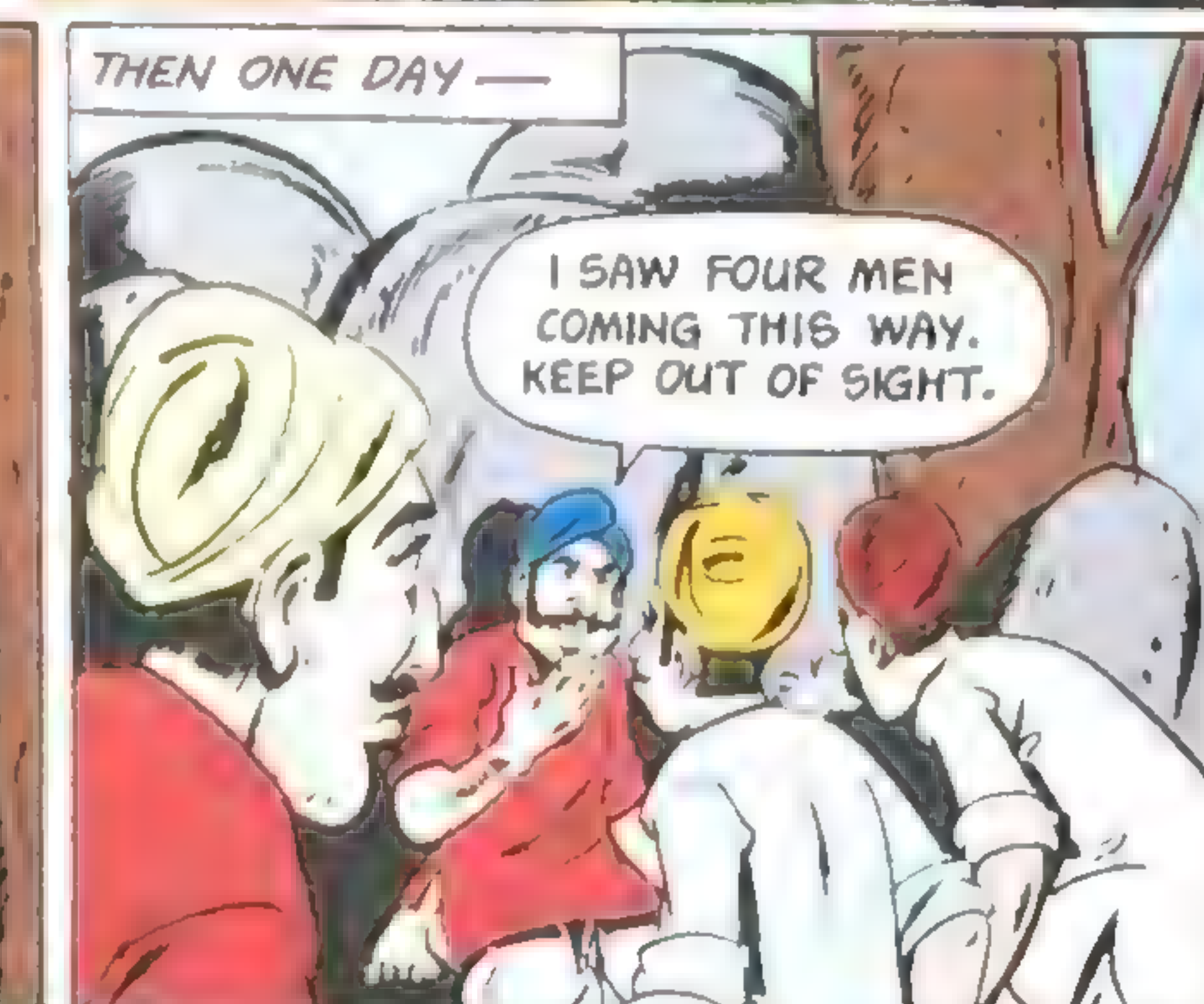


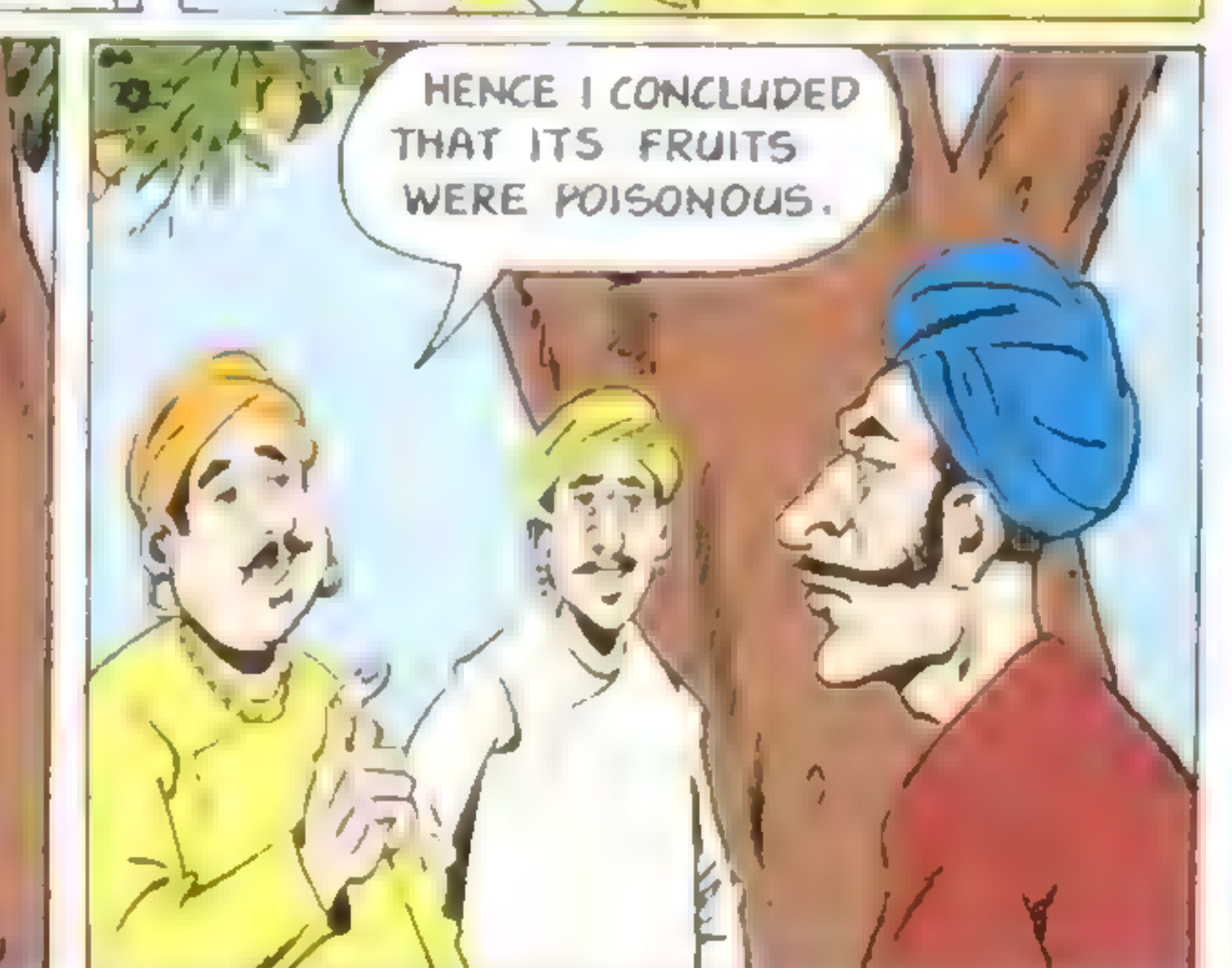
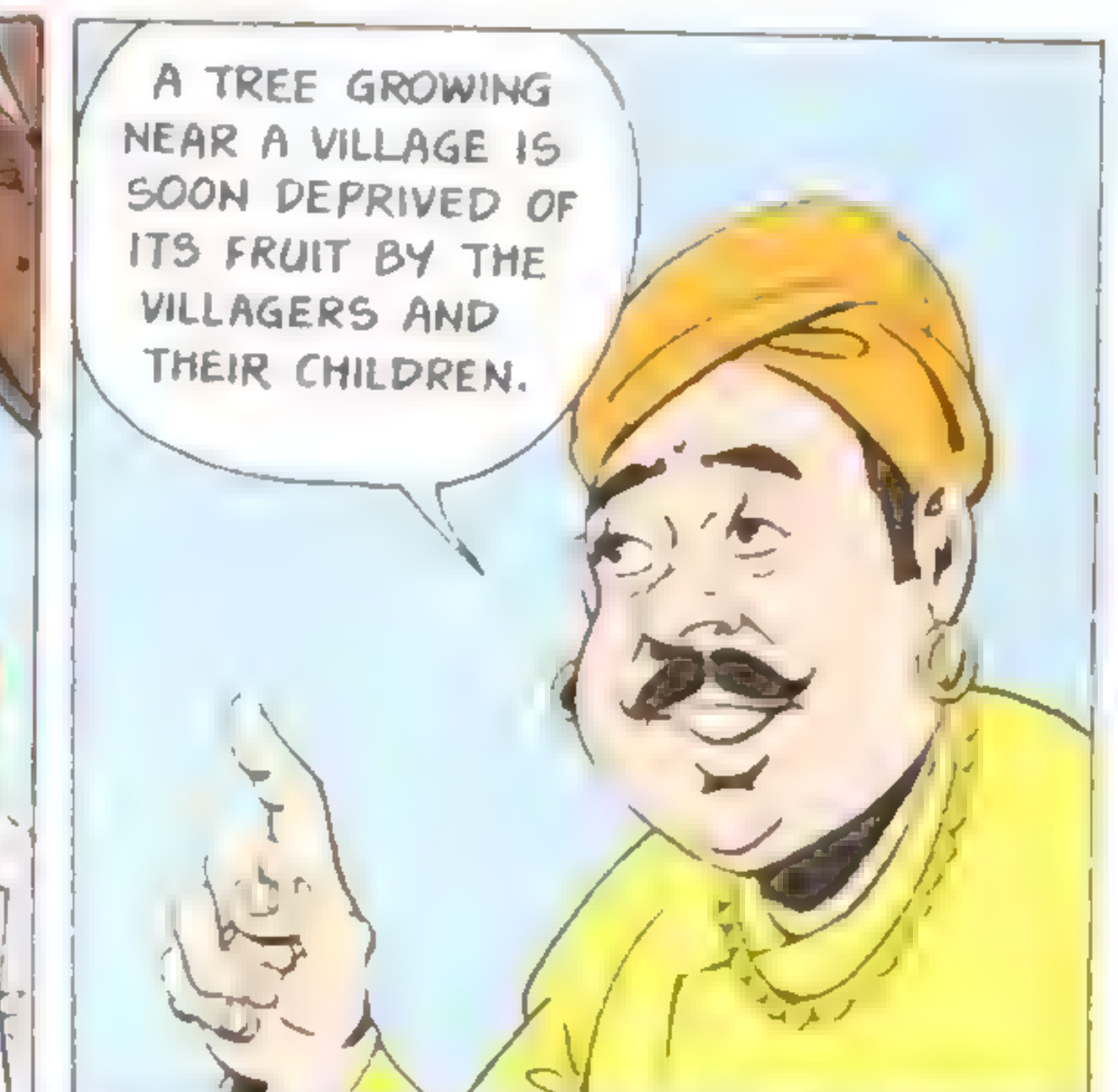
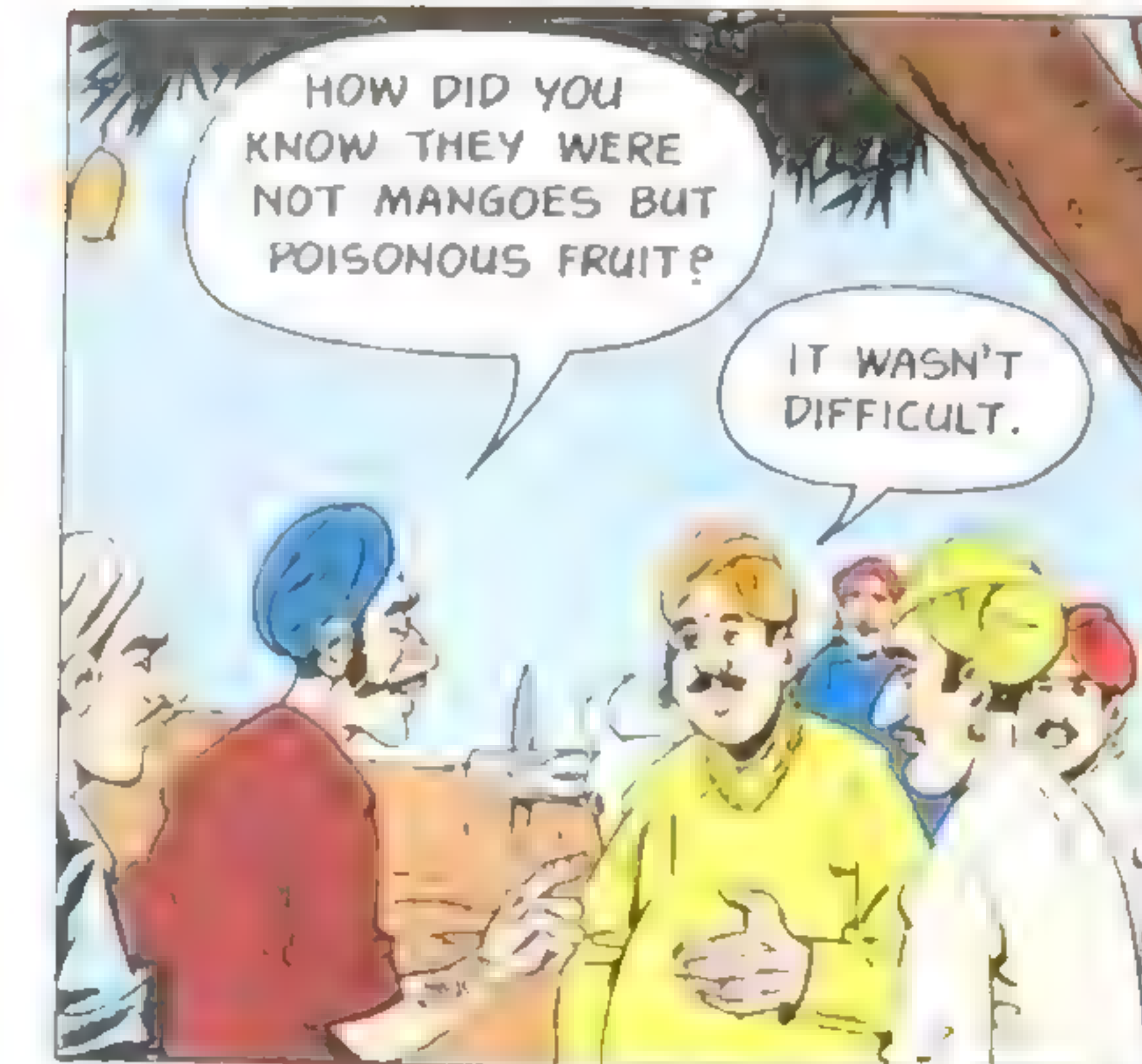




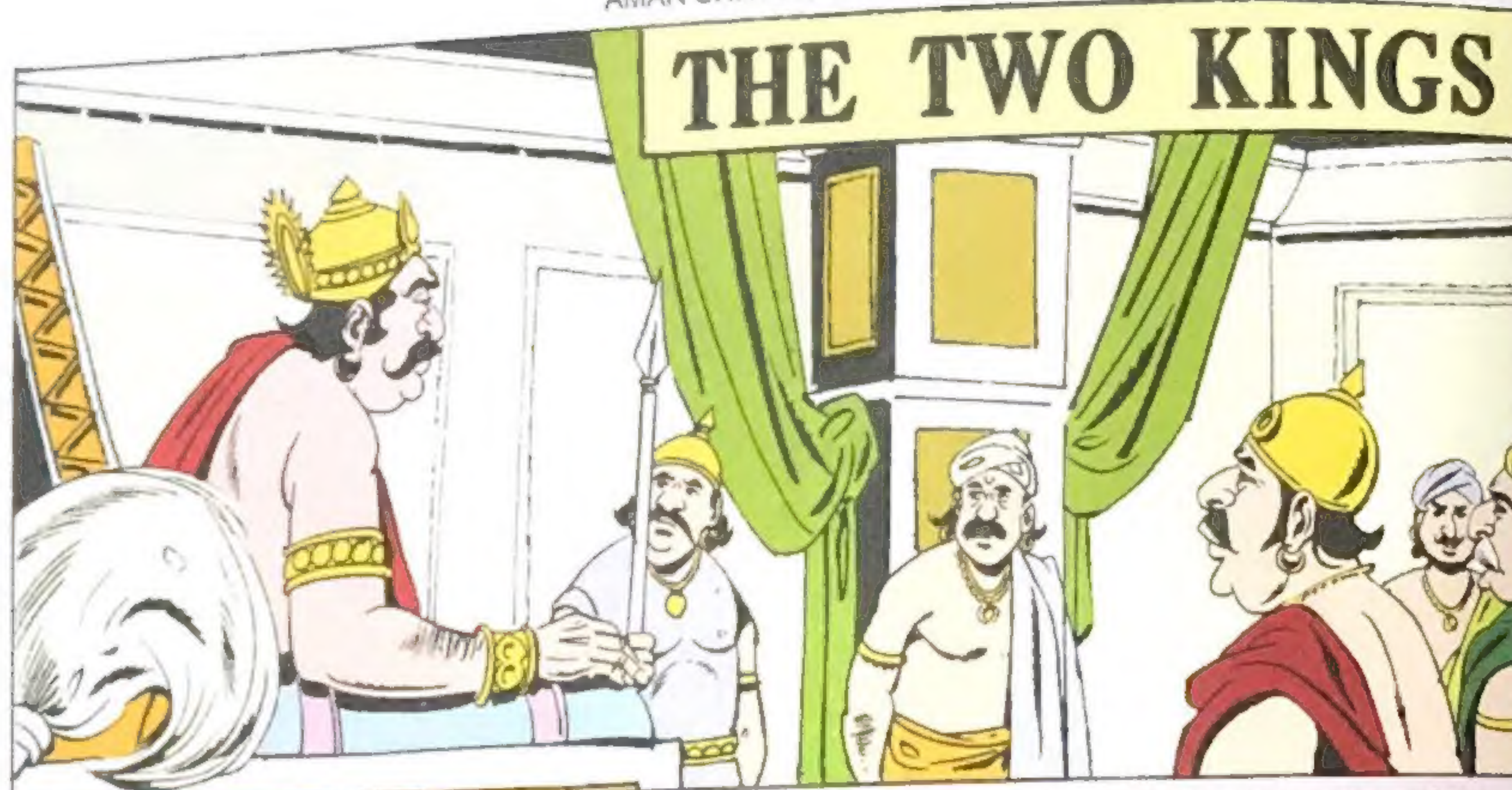
THE FRUIT TREE





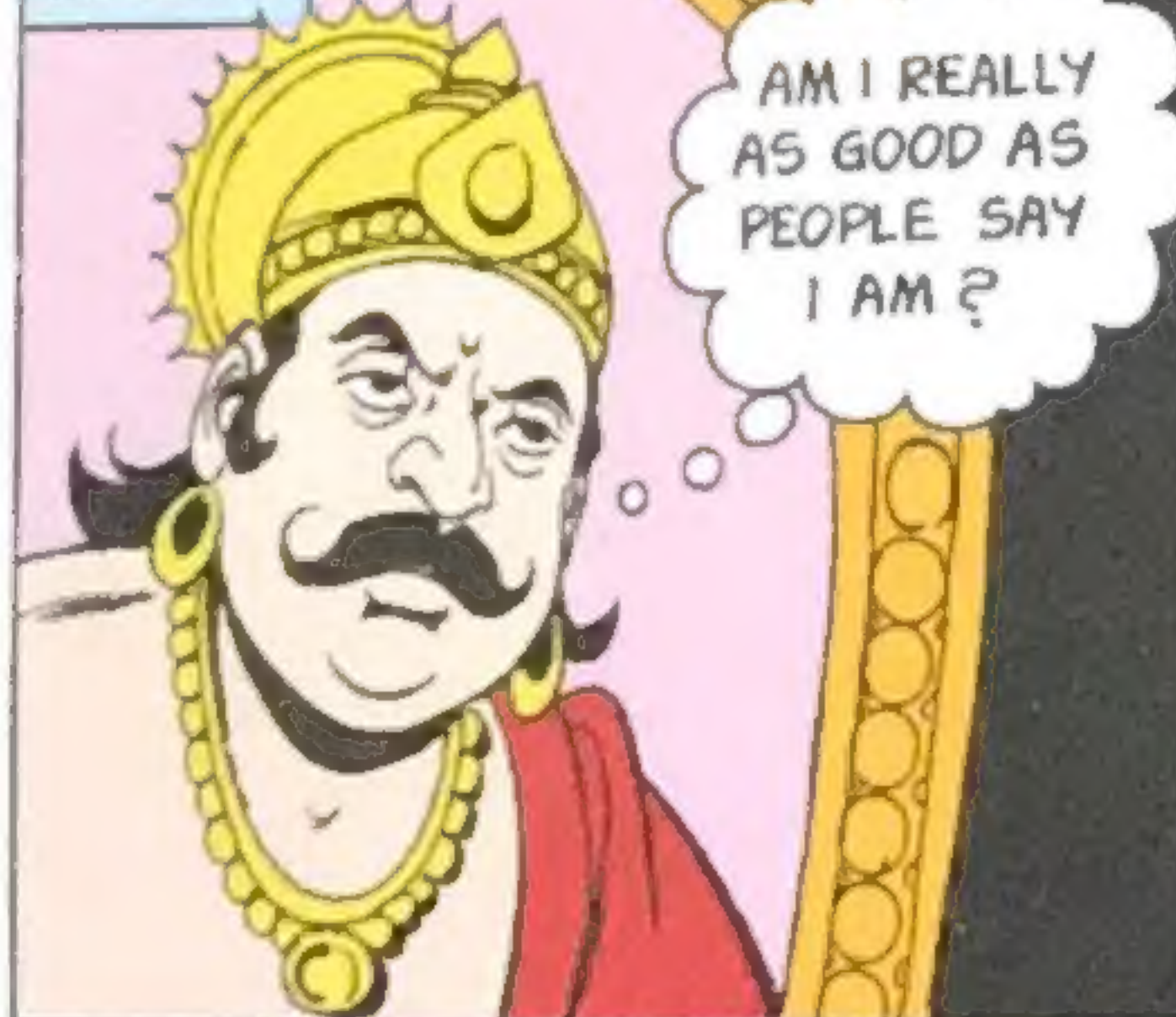


THE TWO KINGS



A POWERFUL AND JUST KING NAMED MALLIKA ONCE RULED OVER THE KINGDOM OF KOSALA.

GREAT THOUGH HIS ACHIEVEMENTS WERE, HE WAS PLAQUED BY SELF-DOUBT.



AM I REALLY AS GOOD AS PEOPLE SAY I AM?

HE QUESTIONED HIS MINISTER.

TELL ME THE TRUTH. IS THERE ANY FLAW IN MY CHARACTER?



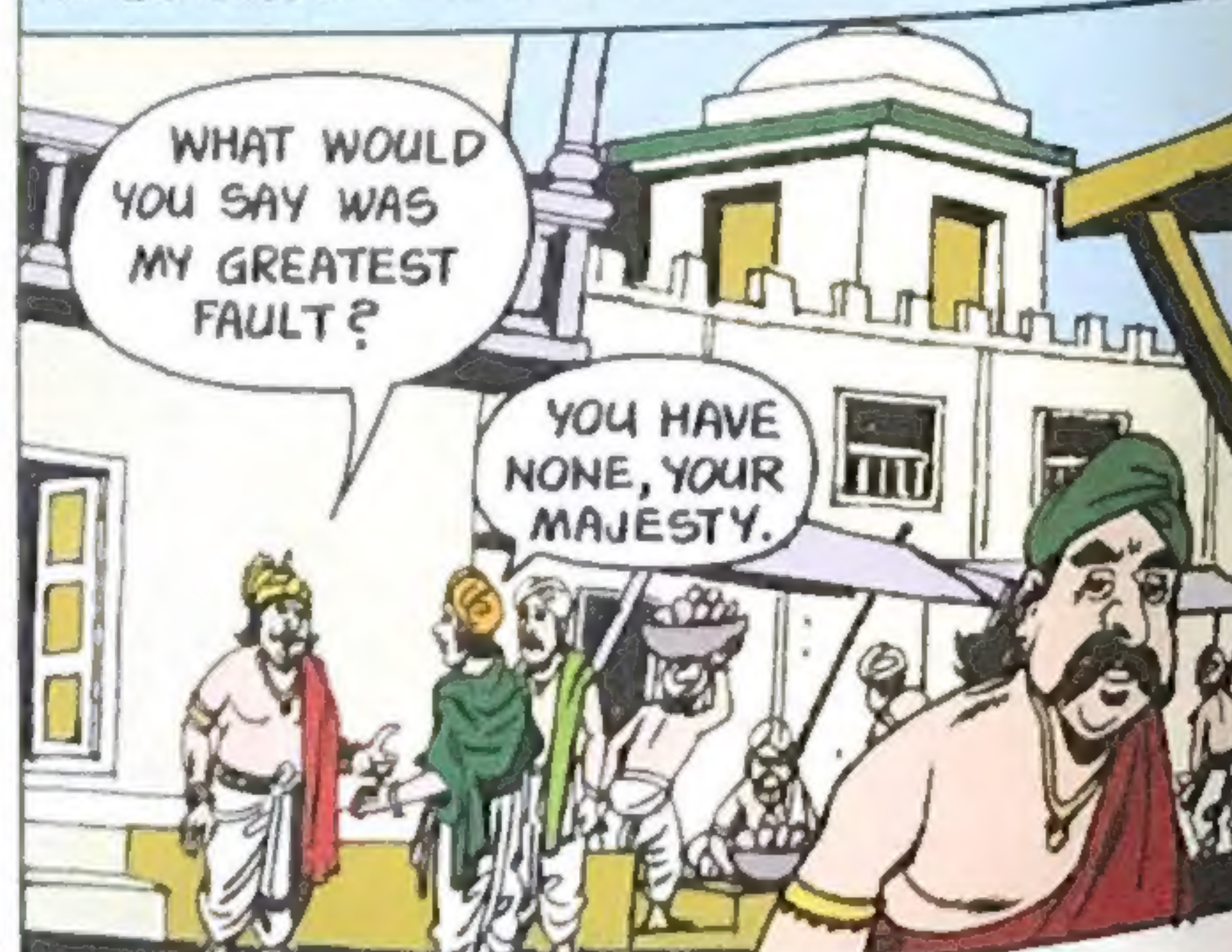
NO, YOUR MAJESTY.



YOU ARE GENTLE, GENEROUS AND JUST.

HE QUESTIONED THE PEOPLE OF HIS CITY.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY WAS MY GREATEST FAULT?

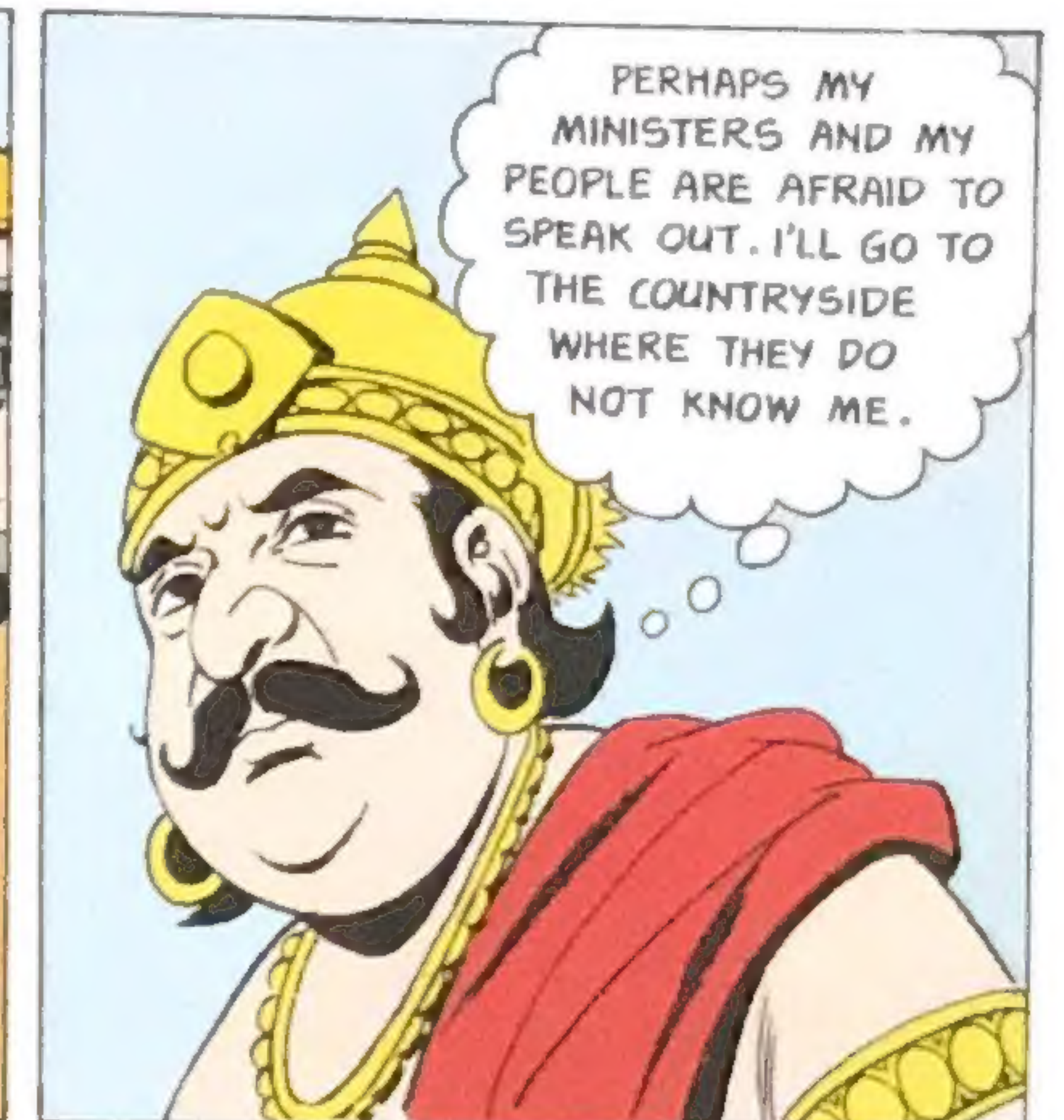


YOU HAVE NONE, YOUR MAJESTY.



YOU RULE US WISELY AND WELL.

YES, INDEED, YOU DO.



PERHAPS MY MINISTERS AND MY PEOPLE ARE AFRAID TO SPEAK OUT. I'LL GO TO THE COUNTRYSIDE WHERE THEY DO NOT KNOW ME.

SO HE GOT INTO A CHARIOT AND SET OUT.



HIS CHARIOTEER DROVE HIM WHEREVER HE WISHED TO GO...



... BUT NOWHERE COULD HE FIND A MAN WHO COULD, OR WOULD, POINT OUT HIS FAULTS TO HIM.



... THERE IS NO ONE AS VIRTUOUS AS OUR GREAT KING, MALLIKA.

THEN ONE DAY AS HIS CHARIOT WAS ABOUT TO CROSS A NARROW BRIDGE —



HO, THERE!
HOLD BACK YOUR
HORSES.

LET NO ONE COME
IN THE WAY OF MY
ROYAL MASTER,
BRAHMADATTA, KING
OF VARANASI.

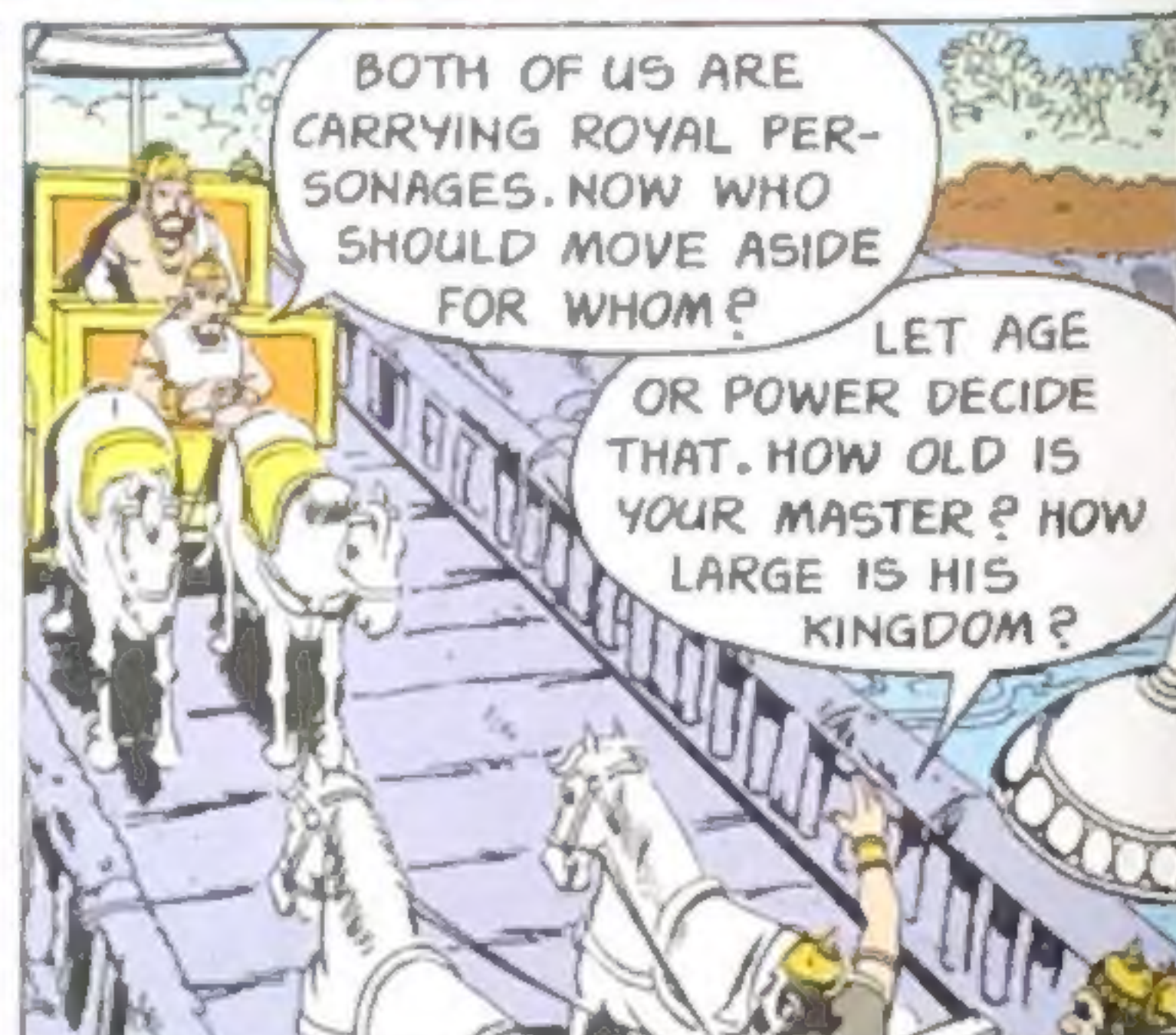


WELL, MY MASTER IS
THE LORD OF KOSALA.
I CANNOT MOVE ASIDE
FOR ANYONE.



IT WAS THE PRACTICE IN THOSE DAYS
THAT THE MAN OF LOWER STATUS SHOULD
GIVE THE RIGHT OF WAY TO HIS SUPERIOR.

BOTH OF US ARE
CARRYING ROYAL PER-
SONAGES. NOW WHO
SHOULD MOVE ASIDE
FOR WHOM?

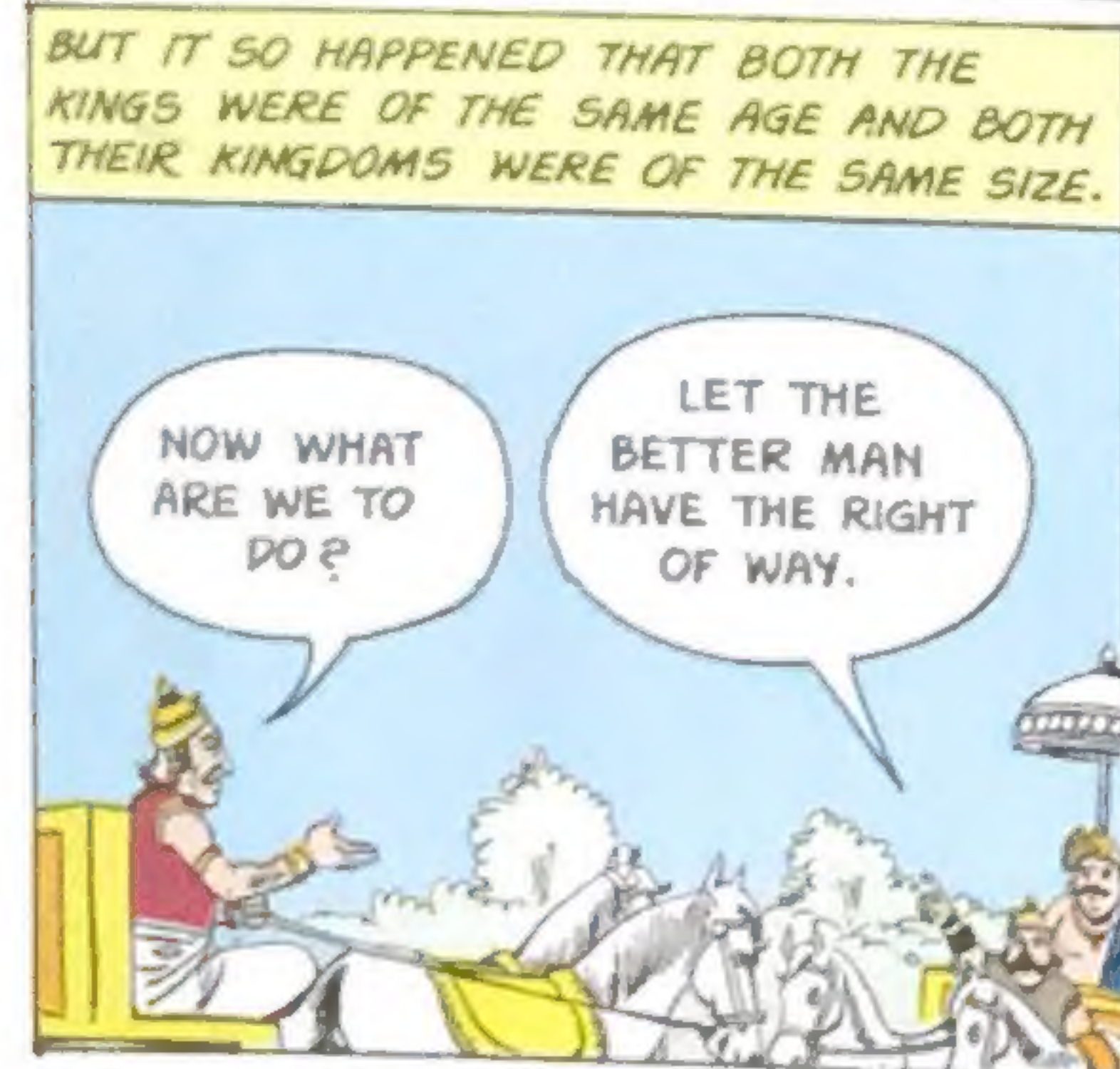


LET AGE
OR POWER DECIDE
THAT. HOW OLD IS
YOUR MASTER? HOW
LARGE IS HIS
KINGDOM?

BUT IT SO HAPPENED THAT BOTH THE
KINGS WERE OF THE SAME AGE AND BOTH
THEIR KINGDOMS WERE OF THE SAME SIZE.

NOW WHAT
ARE WE TO
DO?

LET THE
BETTER MAN
HAVE THE RIGHT
OF WAY.



WHO IS THE BETTER
MAN? WHAT ARE YOUR
MASTER'S VIRTUES?

MY MASTER
REPAY'S EVIL FOR
EVIL AND GOOD
FOR GOOD.



IF THOSE ARE
YOUR MASTER'S
VIRTUES I SHUDDER
TO THINK WHAT
HIS FAULTS ARE.

AT LAST I HAVE
MET SOMEONE
WHO IS NOT
AFRAID TO SPEAK
HIS MIND.



ENOUGH OF
YOUR INSOLENT!
LET'S HEAR WHAT
YOUR OWN MASTER'S
VIRTUES ARE.

THAT IS
SOMETHING
I WOULD LIKE
TO HEAR TOO.



MY MASTER
REPAY'S GOOD FOR
EVIL. HE DOES
GOOD EVEN TO
THOSE WHO DO
HIM HARM.



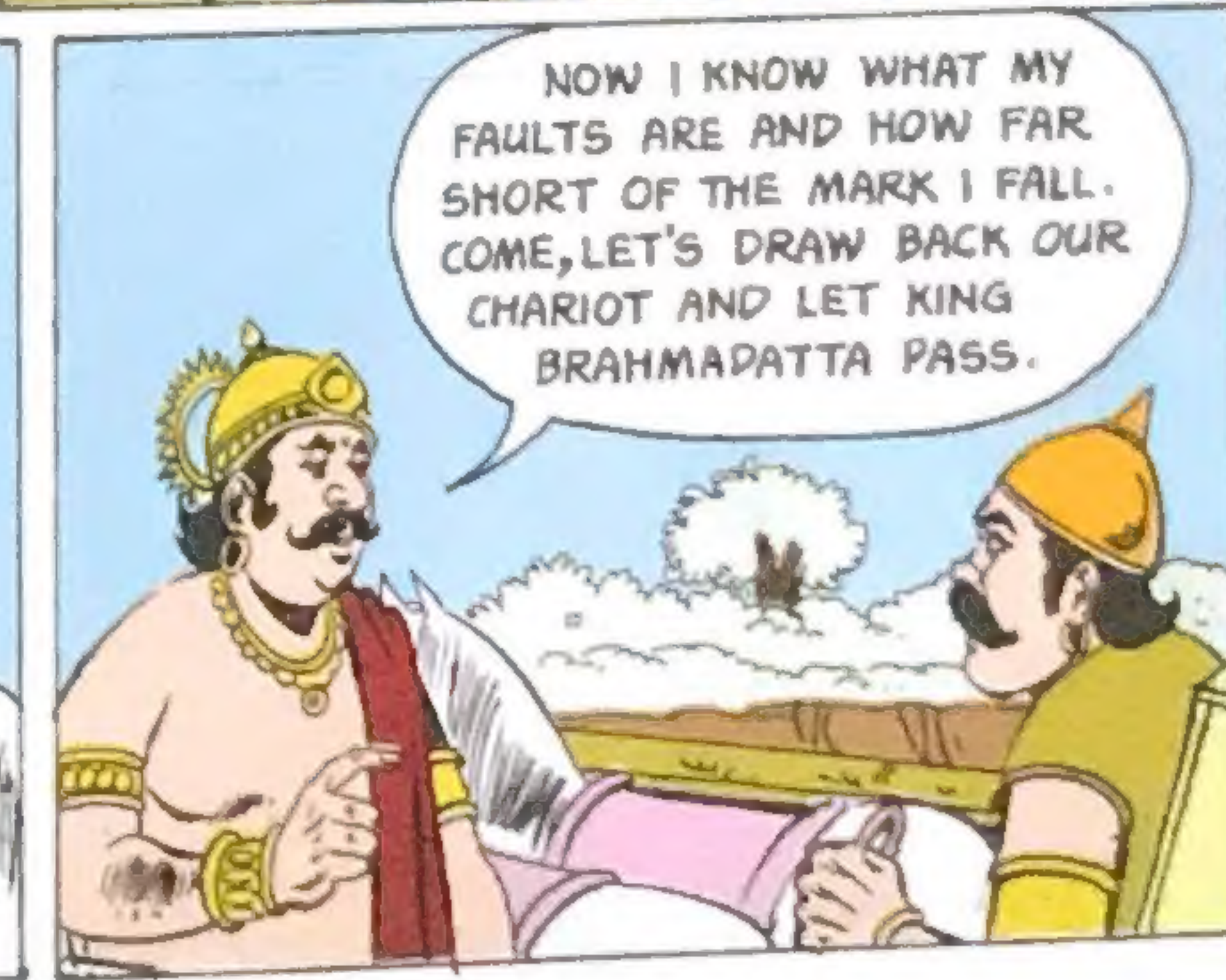
THEN HE IS
A BETTER MAN
THAN I.



I SALUTE
YOU, O KING.



NOW I KNOW WHAT MY
FAULTS ARE AND HOW FAR
SHORT OF THE MARK I FALL.
COME, LET'S DRAW BACK OUR
CHARIOT AND LET KING
BRAHMADATTA PASS.



USHADHAKUMARA

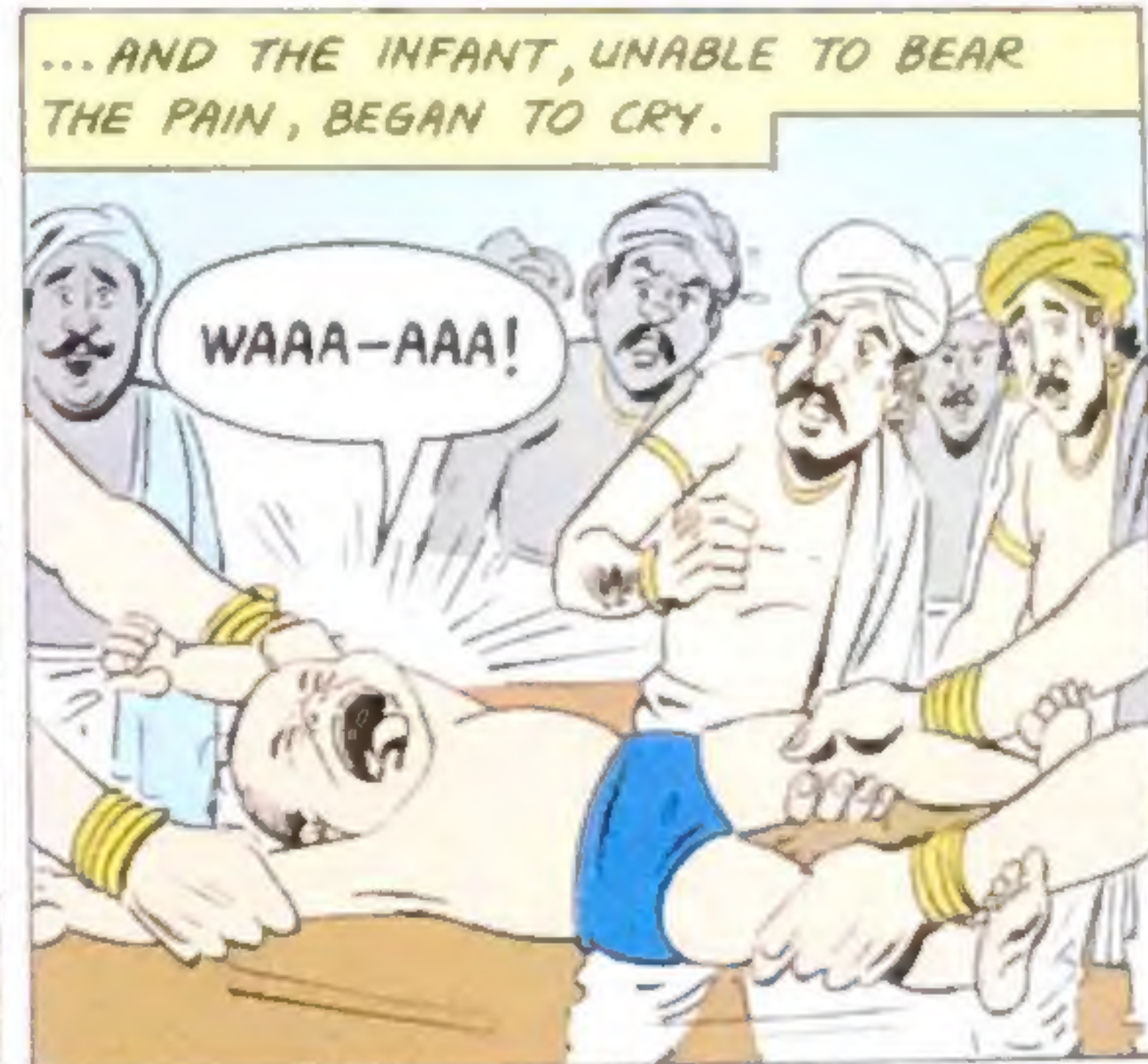
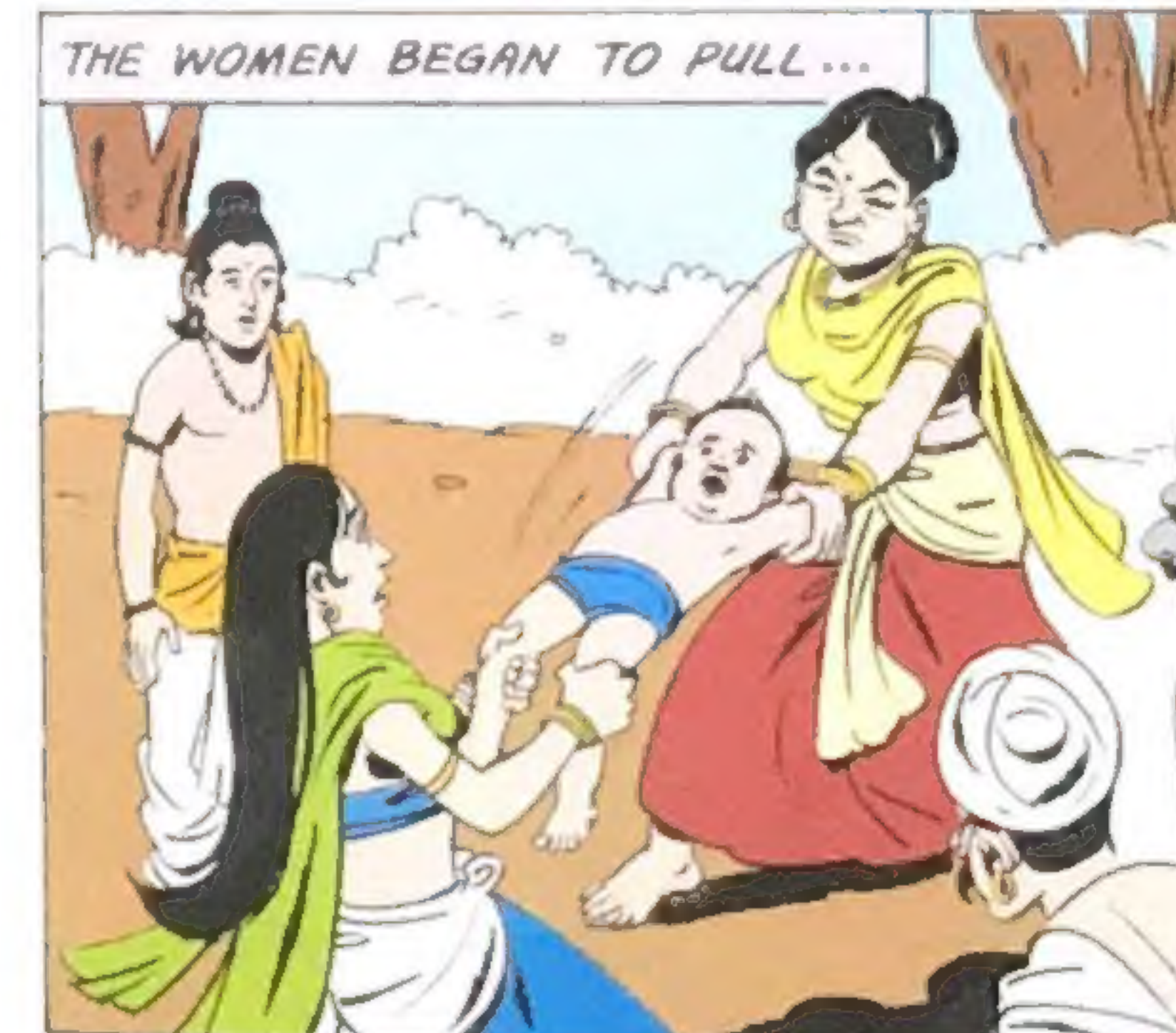


USHADHAKUMARA WAS A GREAT SAGE. HE BECAME FAMOUS FOR HIS WISDOM WHEN HE WAS STILL VERY YOUNG.

ONCE, TWO WOMEN, BOTH CLAIMING TO BE THE MOTHER OF THE SAME CHILD, CAME TO HIM FOR ARBITRATION.



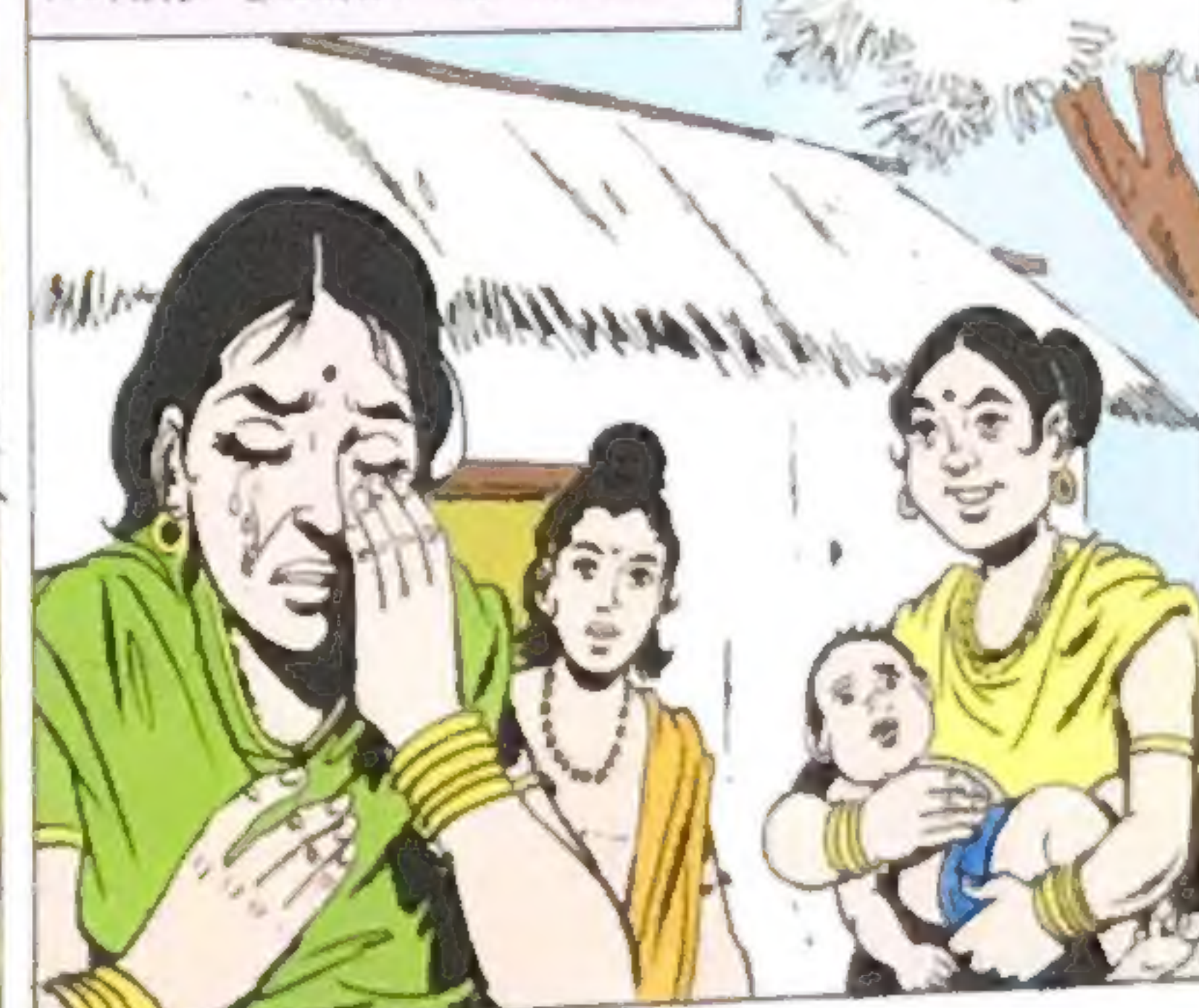
USHADHAKUMARA DREW A LINE ON THE GROUND AND PLACED THE CHILD ON IT.



THEN ONE OF THE WOMEN IMMEDIATELY LET GO HER GRIP ON THE CHILD...



...AND BEGAN TO WEEP.





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